

Abstract

The present thesis is concerned with the topic of multi-word verbs (MWV) use in the speech of native and non-native (Czech) speakers of English. More precisely, it aims to give a quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of the use of three main MWV categories: phrasal verbs (PhV), prepositional verbs (PrV) and phrasal-prepositional verbs (PPV). In addition, it summarizes the main research areas in the field of MWV, one of them being the avoidance of MWV by non-native speakers of English, which has been an inspiration for conducting this study. The material comes from two spoken corpora: LINDSEI_CZ corpus of Czech speakers and its referential LOCNEC corpus of English native speakers. The analysis tries to disprove or prove three hypotheses, i.e. non-native speakers' usage of MWV is lower than that of native speakers, prepositional verbs are the favoured MWV by non-native speakers, and non-native speakers overuse certain MWV. The results show that the biggest difference is in the use of PhV as the non-native speakers use significantly fewer PhV than the native speakers; their usage of phrasal-prepositional verbs and especially prepositional verbs is rather comparable to native speakers. Non-native speakers also overuse (and conversely underuse) certain MWV that are far less (or conversely more) frequent in the native corpus.