

The aims of this thesis were to map the area of infinitives and the way they are used as secondary predicates in Russian, Czech and German, and to make a typological classification of infinitives based on the way these exist and operate in language. Part One gives an overview of the basic conception of the Praguian typology with other language typologies in the background. The overview is followed by a list of characteristic features of particular language types (according to the Praguian typology) with the emphasis put on syntactic realizations of these types. At the level of syntax, the Praguian typology has focused on the following topics: possible ways of expressing sentence relations (esp. that of predication), the issue of congruence, which is closely connected to the previous topic, the questions of noun clauses (noun + noun), the use of copula, the questions related to “a second verb” in the sentence and to the role of infinite and nominal forms of verbs and how they compete with other forms (since there is a link between these two topics), and the connection between congruence and fixed word order.

In the Praguian typology the way of looking at secondary predication has changed. In the beginning, Skalička was convinced that using an infinitive as a second verb in a sentence is a manifestation of the agglutinative type because of the “transitional character” of the infinitive, i.e. because of no differentiation of verbal and nominal functions (Skalička, Vladimír (2004a), p259). Agglutinative languages use infinitives with personal, causative and other suffixes. Isolating languages do not have differentiated parts of speech; therefore, there is no verbal or nominal component either. This does not only imply that “transitional forms” are not used (the grammatical function of a lexeme depends on the particular grammar words it is used with), but that there is no differentiation of prepositions and conjunctions either. It was exactly because of their “transitional character” why Skalička assumed that in inflectional languages the possibility of using infinitives and nominal forms of verbs is very limited: in this language type something like that is incompatible with the differentiation of parts of speech.