

Abstract:

The Diploma thesis analyses the existential construction *there is/are* and its Czech translation equivalents. The existential construction is used to present a new phenomenon and is thus one of the basic forms of the presentation scale. Even though it is a commonly used construction in English, there is no direct equivalent in Czech. It was, therefore, assumed that the most common means of translating the existential sentences to Czech would be the verb *být*, the Czech equivalent of the verb *be* (as in *There is a long way ahead of us.* = *Je před námi dlouhá cesta.*), *mít*, the Czech equivalent of the verb *have* (as in *There is a long way ahead of us* = *Máme před sebou dlouhou cestu*) or other lexical verbs explicitly expressing existence of the given phenomenon, such as *existovat* (=exist), *objevit se* (=appear) and others.

The theoretical part summarizes literature and previous work on the problematics of the presentation scale, presentation sentences and the construction *there is/are*. It also provides information about the functional sentence perspective, which is essential to the discussed topic. The final part of the theoretical section briefly discusses the previous work on the Czech translation equivalents of the existential construction. The aim of the empirical part was to gather 200 English sentences with the existential construction *there is/are* from the parallel corpus InterCorp v11, analyse all example syntactically and semantically and compare them with their Czech translation equivalents. All examples from InterCorp were found in the fiction genre, namely in five English books written and translated after the year 2000. English sentences were categorized based on Dušková et al.'s classification (2006) into four semantic categories: existential, existential-locative, action and modal. The categorization of the Czech equivalents was mainly based on the semantics of the Czech verbs.

Key words: presentation scale, presentation sentences with *there*, FSP, *there is/are*, existential construction, Czech translation equivalents