

Abstract

The thesis investigates (non-)prepositional *-ing* complementation of *stop* and *prevent*, i.e., the constructions *prevent/stop* + NP + *from* + *-ing* and *prevent/stop* + NP + *-ing*, from the perspective of their competition in three registers and from the perspective of structural and semantic factors potentially influencing the choice between the *from*-construction and the *from*-less one (including the construction with the gerundial complement *poss-ing*, i.e., *prevent* + genitive NP + *-ing*). Since the frequency of the *from*-construction and the *from*-less construction has been proved to be to some extent a matter of dialect (it differs in British and American English), the thesis aims to compare frequency of these realizations of complements of *prevent/stop* from the perspective of text type, namely in three selected registers representing the British variety. Material for analysis was extracted from six corpora/subcorpora representing fiction, academic language, and periodicals, with each two corpora/subcorpora representing one register.

The theoretical part of the thesis describes complementation of *prevent* and *stop* from both the synchronic and diachronic perspectives and summarizes the results of the studies dealing with the *from*-construction, the *from*-less construction and the construction with the gerundial complement *poss-ing*. The quantitative section of the thesis compares frequencies of the three complements in the respective registers. In the qualitative section of the thesis, structural and semantic factors influencing the choice of the complement are investigated on a selected sample (840 examples), as they had been described in secondary literature. This section of the thesis also addresses the question of whether there is a correlation between one of the complements in a particular register and typical features of that register (e.g., a frequent use of passive voice in academic language).

The results of the analysis suggest that the choice of the complement of *prevent/stop* may depend on the register. Of the three registers, the *from*-less construction is most frequently found as a complement of both *prevent* and *stop* in periodicals. Moreover, the analysis shows that preference for the *from*-construction may be related to the inflected form of *prevent/stop* and to the passive form of *prevent/stop*.

key words: (non-)prepositional *-ing* complementation, *from*-construction, *from*-less construction, construction with the gerundial complement *poss-ing*, fiction, academic language, periodicals, structural and semantic factors influencing the choice of the complement