

Abstract

The topic of this bachelor's thesis is left branch extraction (LBE) in Czech. LBE is a non-projective construction created by the division of the nominal phrase, more precisely by the movement of the left constituent (e.g., *Kterou_i jsi viděl [t_i dívku]_{NP?}*). The construction is limited, e.g., the left branch cannot be extracted from an NP that is complement of PP. More importantly, LBE is restricted by the word order. Using the analysis based on the phase theory and the theory of cyclic linearization (which proved to be sufficient), LBE is only possible if no scrambling of constituents happens (i.e., anti-locality problem does not occur). The two main factors that influence the word order are the syntactic function and the animacy (humanness) of the constituents. Based on the results of the conducted experiment, the more important factor for the ordering of words is the humanness. If this is taken out of the equation (i.e., the humanness of both subject and object is balanced), the word order is based on the syntactic function. For the possibility of the canonical word order to be based on the humanness, the analysis reflecting the uniformity of theta-assignment hypothesis (UTAH) and base-generating human object on a higher SpecvP to a nonhuman subject agrees with the results. For clause with LBE to be natural (acceptable), the word order needs to be a human subject preceding a nonhuman object. If the humanness is balanced, the word order of the clause has to be subject – object.

Key words: left branch extraction, word order, Czech syntax, phases, linearization, semantics