

There are two groups of noun in Czech – the type *kámen* ‘stone’ among inanimate masculine nouns, and the type *břemeno/břímě* ‘burden’ among neuters – that vary between the “hard” and “soft” declension. The kernel of both groups was n-stems in Old Slavonic. Their ancient endings are reflected as soft endings in present-day Czech. During the development, former n-stems acquired also hard endings, for the plural commonly, for the singular to a various extent. Acquiring newer endings was reflected in language handbooks; however, long-term processes were sometimes overestimated and a development was anticipated that in fact still did not happen.

The thesis submitted tries to describe the state of form variation according to approachable data about the present usage. The data source was the representative corpus of present-day Czech SYN2000, as a supplementary source other corpora (incl. user-defined subcorpus SYNod2000), and the Internet. Findings from the diachronic corpus DIAKORP, supplemented by electronic excerpts from further diachronic texts, partly illuminate the development of the variation observed, as well as electronic excerpts from Kralice Bible (1613). ...