

In the present study we have attempted to determine the means of realization of the end-focus principle in the English clause. Conducting an analysis of two sample literary texts, an older one and a contemporary one, the aim was to trace the mutual influence of two word order principles, the principle of end-focus, which projects itself in the basic distribution of communicative dynamism over the sentence elements, and the grammatical principle, which represents the main word ordering tool in the English clause and as such may prevail over the functional sentence perspective. The analysis presented here had in its focus the possible outcomes of the application of the two principles. After dividing the material according to the clauses underlying word order, i.e. into clauses with and without transformation, analysis of the aspects influencing the FSP – linearity, the semantic aspect and the contextual aspect - was performed and several distinct types of clauses were identified depending on the extent to which either of the principles asserts itself in them.

In the first type, both GWO and BDofCD were displayed by the clauses. These comprised 54.6% of the total of 441 clauses accepted for the analysis. The aspects monitored in them included the context-dependent character of the initial subject and the clause-initial thematic adverbial. According to the results rendered, the initial subject in this type tends to be expressed (an overwhelming majority of 208 expressed as against 33 ellipted subjects was identified) and determined by anaphoric devices, in almost a half of all cases, by a personal pronoun, which ties in with its status of the least dynamic communicative unit in the whole distributional field. Turning to the initial thematic adverbials, their use in both samples represents well their constituent role in the Presentation scale, since 62.5 % express the background information of location, performing the dynamic semantic role of Setting. Other semantic types of initial thematic adverbials occurred only exceptionally, including those of concession, cause or accompanying circumstances, all of them having a rather extended structure.

Upon sorting the clauses of the first type, 200 instances of deviation from either the FSP or GWO were recorded.