The aim of the paper is to explore and characterize explicative relationships in Czech expressed by linking elements totiž, vždyť, přece and to distinguish them from other semantic relationships within the compound and complex sentences (mainly from causality). The research was done on the basis of analysis of linguistic material gained from the Czech National Corpus (SYNPUB2006 and parallel corpus InterCorp) and Prague Dependency Treebank (PDT).

Only 902 out of 3 713 examined utterances were relevant for the research (it means 902 utterances contained expressions totiž, vždyť, přece as conjunctions within the compound or complex sentences; the others including relationships within clause elements or referring over sentence final signal to the previous context were not explored). Therefore, it was shown that linking elements totiž, vždyť, přece functioning as a means bringing the contents of both utterances into some semantic relation occur relatively rarely (in the searched corpus data in 24. 29 %).

These sentences may be then separated into several semantic groups. This paper focuses on two of them – explication and causality, as these two relationships are often hard to distinguish (as shown in the analysis of relationships within utterances in Prague Dependency Treebank PDT and Czech National Corpus).

On the basis of results from the analysis of linguistic material, it was shown that explication occurs when the contents of both propositions are:

a) the same/similar;

b) close (the content closeness is understood as a case when the content of one utterance is possible to include into the content of the second; after the analysis of the obtained material, it was revealed that explication occurs only in instances when the content of the first utterance is more general or wider than the content of the second).

The content synonymy/similarity occurs both on the level of parataxis (very rare within the examined conjunctions) and hypotaxis (concerning only conjunction totiž, mostly in the complex form totiž že, totiž zda, totiž aby), the content closeness only on the level of parataxis.