

While the category of in/definiteness in Czech and other Slavonic languages (except Bulgarian and Macedonian, cf. Corbett - Comrie, 2002) is not expressed by articles, the present paper is concerned with the observation that in contemporary spoken nonstandard Czech a) the demonstrative pronoun *ten* is developing functions of a definite article, and b) the indefinite pronoun *nějaký* is developing functions of an indefinite article (alongside with the numeral *jeden*). On the basis of quantitative analysis, I will demonstrate that this development is ongoing predominantly in spoken non-standard Czech, in which speakers mark identification even if it is obvious from other means (e.g. functional sentence perspective), whereas in standard Czech this tendency is still avoided. Methodologically this paper starts from grammaticalisation theory, according to which frequently used expressions are in certain contexts syntactically and morphologically reanalyzed, and after having grammaticalised, they continue to develop new grammatical functions (cf. Traugott 1995). The general trend in the field of grammaticalisation is that new means are first very productive in spoken language and pervade standard language only after that. As will be shown later, the development of *ten* / *nějaký* in Czech is at a stage in which these expressions are highly frequent in spoken language, but still rather avoided in writing. Nevertheless, the spoken language alone clearly manifests a number of features of ongoing grammaticalisation: together with increasing frequency, *ten* / *nějaký* manifest decategorialisation (cf. the loss of deictic function of *ten* in certain contexts), broadening scope of functions, and weakening of pronunciation (all of these phenomena will be discussed in detail in the following chapters).