

## Abstract

This year the Institute of the Czech Language AS CR (Ustav pro jazyk cesky AV CR) is celebrating the 100th anniversary of foundation of its direct predecessor, the Office of the Dictionary of the Czech Language (Kancelar Slovníku jazyka ceskeho, KSJC) which provided the administrative background for an ambitious lexicographic project launched already in 1905 by the committee for lexicography and dialectology the Czech Academy of Emperor Franz Joseph for sciences, literature and art, to become the Czech Academy for Sciences and Art (CAVU) in 1918. Although much was done between the wars to establish a state-funded language institute, i.e. an institution which would unify the all-encompassing research of language and systematic work with the national language, for financial reasons the Czech Language Institute was established only in 1946. Six years later, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAV) was founded and incorporated, among others, the Institute of the Czech Language. During the years, the structure of the Institute underwent various changes which were not merely a response to linguistic needs but also to the events of the time relating to the strengthening of the totalitarian communist power. Top Communist Party officials often interfered with personnel matters of the Institute and controlled research as well as the daily operation of the Institute. Despite all these adverse circumstances, which were mostly of political and/or financial nature, the scientific results of the UJC in the period of 1911–1992 in the linguistic disciplines were usually of a very high standard and did a lot to represent Czech linguistics in Czechoslovakia and abroad. This paper aims at presenting the first comprehensive synthesis of the history of the UJC CSAV and its predecessors, namely KSJC and UJC CAVU, while gathering not only commonly known facts in the general context of the Institute's history but also information which is less familiar or completely unknown and has been obtained from vast research of archival funds which required critical evaluation in terms of history as well as the science of linguistics.