Abstract

This thesis carries out a contrastive analysis of English and Czech restaurant menus. A restaurant menu is a specific type of text that deserves a detailed examination. The theoretical background outlines the various uses of the concepts genre, text type, register and style. The further study of this specific text type is carried out on the basis of an existing theoretical material that focuses on texts of a similar nature. Ten samples of British and Irish menus, ten samples of Czech menus and six samples of English translations of Czech menus were collected for the purpose of the contrastive analysis.

The analysis of these authentic menus provides a description of their arrangement and structure, as well as their typological classification among a specific text type category. English and Czech menus are described in terms of their contents and formal, lexical and grammatical features. A subsequent comparison of the characteristics of each sample reveals similarities and differences between them. The differences between the two samples are reflected in deficiencies of the English translations of Czech menus. The analysis of English translations of Czech menus and their confrontation with English menus reveals mistakes that typically occur in the translations of menus. Thus, the thesis presents a theoretical description and also draws practical conclusions about this specific text type.