

ABSTRACT

The subject of the present thesis is an analysis of English ditransitive verbs, i.e. verbs that need complementation by two objects. The main focus is the position of the objects depending on their realization and factors influencing their ordering. There are four different types of realization distinguished: 1. both O_d and O_i/O_{prep} realized by nouns; 2. O_d realized by a noun and O_i/O_{prep} realized by a pronoun; 3. O_d realized by a pronoun and O_i/O_{prep} realized by a noun; 4. both objects realized by pronouns. The position of the objects is assumed to be influenced by the principle of end-focus, i.e. clause element carrying less communicative dynamism (given information) tends to precede element carrying more communicative dynamism (new information), and by the principle of end-weight, i.e. the tendency to put longer and more complex (premodified or postmodified) clause elements towards the end of a clause. As new information is often stated more fully, the principle of end-focus and end-weight often reinforce each other.

The analytical part is a corpus-based analysis of 120 examples for two ditransitive verbs, *buy* and *sell*, with 60 examples for each verb. The examples have been excerpted from the British National Corpus leaving out examples unsuitable for the analysis (e.g. passive voice). The obtained data has been categorized based on the realization of the objects and the clause pattern they are found in. An attempt was made to find out whether the ordering of the objects is in all instances in accordance with the principle of end-focus and end-weight or whether some other factors might influence the position of the objects.