

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the function of the French adverbial collocation *en effet* by applying contrastive bidirectional analysis on corpus material. The goal is to find out which factors influence its functions and meanings. *En effet* has two main roles: it either expresses the cause and works as an argumentative connector between sentences or it is an adverb of confirmation. This double role is reflected in the Czech language as well, where the equivalents of *en effet* can be *totiž* as well as *skutečně*. This paper aims to find out which function of *en effet* prevails in which conditions and whether the equivalents offered in Czech-French dictionaries correspond to the real practical use of *en effet*. The analysis is done on four types of texts – novels, newspaper articles, law texts *acquis communautaire* of the EU and the speeches given by the EU MPs in the European parliament. Four factors are analysed: frequency, position and argumentative/confirmative type of *en effet* in the texts as well as its Czech translations. This will enable us to contrast *en effet* with its potential synonyms *effectivement* and *en fait*. The French corpus Frantext as well as the Czech-French and French-Czech part of the parallel corpus InterCorp are used for the analysis.

The first part of the thesis deals with the issue of connectors of cause and it describes *en effet* and other connectors/adverbs similar to it. The second part explains the corpus analysis and bidirectional analysis methodology and the third part presents the analysis.

This paper concludes that the type of text influences the frequency of *en effet* in the text but the differences are limited, as well as in the case of the position factor. The most frequent Czech equivalents of *en effet* in corpus material correspond to the definitions of Czech dictionaries. As for the resemblance of *en effet* with *effectivement* and *en fait*, *en effet* has wider scope of meanings and a higher argumentative potential. The existing categorization of *en effet* is however restrictive and should be widened.

Key words:

en effet, argumentative connectors, corpus analysis, causal relations, translation, Frantext, InterCorp