

ABSTRACT

Semantic differences in the use of gerund and present participle in French

The objective of this memory is to systematize and expand the field of semantic differences between the gerund and the present participle in French. The departing point is that these *-ant* forms are two completely separate and independent grammatical forms from the morphological, syntactic and semantic points of view. These differences will be explained in the theoretical part of the work. Grammatical switching between these two forms is possible only when the present participle has the *épithète détachée* function. Unlike traditional French grammar, we assume that in this case there is a fine difference in meaning when gerund and present participle commute in sentences with identical environments. Our hypothesis, based on the approach of Saskia Kindt, consists in the difference in expression of intentionality.

The empirical part will present the methodology for verifying the hypothesis and results from analysis of the corpus Frantext and questionnaire survey of native speakers. We would expect that the gerund will have the tendency to mark intentionality, while the present participle will be able to express non-intentional nuance in sentences with identical environment. By the explanation of the results, we will try to contribute to clarification of certain grammatical phenomenas of the *-ant* forms.