

**Abstract:**

The master's thesis describes the semantic development and usage of prefixes *s-*, *z-* and *vz-* in Czech. The thesis begins with a short summary of theoretical background, definition of the subject matter and terms used. It then proceeds with etymological analysis and description of meanings of equivalents of these prefixes in Old Slavic. Following chapters analyze the competition of the three prefixes in Old Czech, describing the factors that impacted their use and provide an overview of the matter in New Czech, with regards to the semantic aspect of the mentioned prefixes. Subsequently, the thesis summarizes orthographic principles of *s-* and *z-* (and *vz-*) from the 16th century up to present times. The last chapter provides an overview of the situation in other Slavic languages with respect to the West Slavic branch. Attention is also paid to the matter of merging the prefixes *s-* and *z-* into one.