

## Abstract

This thesis deals with the structural ambiguity of constructions similar to *Flying planes can be dangerous*, where the ambiguity can arise due to the grammatical indeterminacy of ing-nonfinite form that can be interpreted both as gerund and participle. The ambiguity is analysed on the basis of the transitivity of ing-nonfinite form and subsequently on its semantic compatibility with the noun in the role of subject and object, in the ideal case the ambiguity and compatibility is tested further in the sentence context. The first part, the theoretical background presents us with what the secondary sources say to the phenomenon of ambiguity, distinguishes the types of ambiguity and also covers the grammatical description of non-finite verb forms. The Second part, material and method, describes the method of sampling, which brought us 2 samples extracted from British National Corpus. First sample comprises of 25 instances of “ing-nonfinite form + noun + verb constructions” (sg/pl, type of verb and verb tense are not restricted) and the second sample comprises of 100 instances of similar constructions, however the verb following the noun has been restricted on formal grounds for verb tense, verb type and number in order not to represent a hindrance for the ambiguity. The third, analytical part comprises from description of analysis of both samples. First sample has revealed that the ambiguity was often hindered by grammatical subject verb agreement, which did not allow for second interpretation; semantic incompatibility of sentence constituents in effort to come up with two interpretations. In Second sample the most prominent factor of disambiguation was the transitivity of verbs (checked manually in the dictionary) and further again the semantic compatibility, firstly between the ing-nonfinite form and noun in the role of subject and object and secondly the semantic compatibility within the sentence context. In result, we have come up with 11 instances, where the ambiguity could be observed within the sentence context, each instance is accompanied by both participial and gerundial interpretation and related commentary.