

Abstract

The subject of this thesis are English reciprocal pronouns *each other* and *one another*. There are many approaches to the issue of reciprocity in English (such as generative, typological or transformational) nonetheless; this study attempts to approach the issue from the general perspective.

The thesis is a corpus based study and the primary corpus chosen for this analysis is the British National Corpus, from which 100 examples were extracted (i.e. 50 examples on the pronoun *each other* and 50 instances on the pronoun *one another*).

The main goal of this thesis was to map the immediate environment of the pronouns – in depth analysis was especially paid to the issue of the pronouns' antecedents, which concerns the number of participants in the reciprocal action (meaning whether they refer to two participants, to a group of three and more or whether they pertain to an unspecified group – i.e. when making a general statement). Further, the pronouns' preference to animate or inanimate entities was discussed, the pronouns' verbal collocates, their syntactic functions within clauses and finally their stylistic distribution.

Key words: reciprocal pronouns, number of participants in the reciprocal action