

## **ABSTRACT**

The presented diploma thesis is concerned with German-Czech comparison of the passive voice in legal language. In the theoretical part, the issue of German and Czech passive voice is explained through technical secondary literature. One can find there their basic forms differentiation, the way of their formation, their use in sentences and other basic characteristics. Furthermore, this part introduces the issue of technical language as the current area of today's linguistics. The theoretical findings are employed in the practical part, namely on the Maastricht contract. Firstly, the passive of the German variant of the document is analyzed followed by the analysis of the Czech version. Both of these parts are the starting point of the contrasting exploration of the two language varieties of the mentioned legal document. Czech alternatives to their German passive voice constructions were found, following these three criteria: substitution of German passive voice by Czech active voice, semantic dissonance between the two variants, and the absence of certain passive constructions in the Czech contract. At the end of the thesis, there is an evaluation of the following four hypotheses which were stated at the beginning. The first three hypotheses, which are concerned with matters such as the superiority of the progressive passive voice over the static passive voice or the statements of agents in the passive sentences of the German contract, were proven to be true. In the Czech variation of the contract has been proven that the periphrastic form is preferred to the reflexive passive voice. The only disproved hypothesis is the one concerning the replacement of German passive voice with Czech active voice as more than 50% of German passive constructions were not replaced by active ones.

## **KEYWORDS**

passive voice, active voice, legal language, contrasting exploration, graph, table, the Maastricht treaty