

Abstract

The paper *Acquisitional interference of English and Czech in prepositional constructions* concerns itself with the influence of the first language on acquisition of certain prepositional constructions in learners of English and Czech as a second language. It is based on evidence of frequent erroneous uses of prepositions that has been acquired through professional experience. Its main goal is to examine the influence of negative first language transfer during production of prepositional constructions which in the target language require different marking than a translation equivalent of its marking in the first language. To identify these types of constructions a detailed analysis of functions of selected prepositions is carried out, and endorsed by a graphic illustration. A prediction is made on the conditions under which negative first language transfer will occur, in native speakers of Czech as well as English during production of their target language. This prediction is tested using an elicitation questionnaire based on differences and similarities in marking of prepositional functions in the speakers' first and target language. Both groups of respondents translate a semantically identical list of sentences from their first to their target language. Their answers are recorded, then analysed. The number of negative first language transfer occurrences is used to make assumptions about the validity of the prediction. Suggestions are made about possible practical use of the findings of this paper in second language teaching as well as in language teacher training.