

From Verbs to Nouns and Prepositions

Departicipial Forms in Czech: Form, Function, Complementarity

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Abstract

The present work gives a rough overall picture of the behaviour of departicipial forms ending in *-ící/oucí* (e.g. *vedoucí* – leading or leader, or *fungující* – functioning, working) in synchronous written Czech. In literature, these forms are called participial adjectives, deverbal adjectives or derivatives of the present transgressive. The main focus of the dissertation is on the word-class categorization of the analyzed forms, defined by the variety of functions which departicipial forms fulfill. Part-of-speech membership recommendations belong to the main outcomes of the work, the description of verbal, nominal or even preposition-like behaviour of the analyzed forms being one of the most prominent goals of the whole effort. The analysis is centered around the most frequent form, *vedoucí* (including the lexical unit *vedoucí k* – leading to). The preservation of prepositional valency was identified as one of the criteria of possible prepositionalization of these forms.

Given the absence of reliable tagging, the work is mainly based on manual analyses of random corpora samples. Furthermore, it makes an innovative use of a tool called ‘p-kolokace’ (p-collocations), which is based on two measures; obligatoriness and proximity. Furthermore, the work addresses the specific characteristics of individual text types and genres and the necessity to identify multi-word lexical units when these form a unit of meaning (e. g. with help of the p-kolokace tool). In order to identify the meaning of the individual departicipial forms, the methods of contrastive linguistics and translation studies are employed, including the analysis of translation equivalents, and the work thus draws parallels among the phenomena observed in Czech and among contemporary written German and English.