

Abstract

The objective of the present bachelor thesis is English coordinating conjunction *but*. The theoretical part elaborates on various background studies on syntactical and semantical features of *but*. Furthermore, it explores the form and content of constituents coordinated by *but*, including the analysis of coordination on various levels: level of clauses, phrases as well as individual words.

The analytical part of the present research represents a corpus-based analysis of instances containing *but* with focus on semantic functions of *but* in the domain of spoken register of contemporary British English. The practical part of this analysis is based on 100 instances containing *but* excerpted from the SpokenBNC 2014 apart from *but* in the sentence initial position. The samples were arranged according to frequency of distribution of type of function *but* conveys. The purpose of this thesis was also to find out whether the coordinated constituents were formed in accordance with the general assumption that the correlation in form and function between the coordinated elements is required.

The findings confirm the hypothesis that the distribution of functions of English coordinating conjunction *but* in spoken register differs from written one. The proposed classification of functions of *but* developed for spoken register can be advanced further for the general study on the topic of properties of coordinating conjunctions.

Keywords: coordination, English coordinating conjunctions, syntactic form, coordination of clauses, semantic function, spoken register