

The aim of this thesis was to observe the functions and translation equivalents of the English pluperfect. This thesis worked with 120 examples of the pluperfect excerpted with the help of ParaConc, using a parallel Czech-English corpus. Examples of the pluperfect found in the corpus were compared and analysed with regards to the differences of Czech and English language systems and the different devices that these two languages use to express anteriority and related meanings.

Theoretical Background provides a systematic survey of the descriptions concerning the pluperfect provided by linguists till this time. Basic means of expressing anteriority in Czech and English are also presented there.

In the practical part, Analysis, the examples of the pluperfect were analysed and compared to their Czech equivalents. The examples were divided into several groups. The primary criterion for classification were the semantic relations for the examples of the past perfect found in the main clauses and simple sentences. For the broad grouping of examples found in dependent clauses syntax was taken as the decisive criterion and only after the semantics. Telic/atelic verbs in English, perfective/imperfective aspect of Czech verbs, the correspondence between these two phenomena and adverbials accompanying verbs in the pluperfect and their Czech translations are important issues which were to be observed. However, the perfective aspect of Czech verbs did not appear as the Czech equivalent of the pluperfect, but corresponded rather to English telic verbs. Adverbials expressing anteriority accompanied mainly atelic verbs in English and imperfective verbs in Czech, probably because these verbs do not present an action as finished, so that it is not always clear whether the action presented by these verbs preceded another one or not.