

The present thesis is concerned with determination of proper nouns. While the theoretical part presents a summary of what has already been written about this topic in representative grammars, the analysis concentrates on problematic cases that have not been previously covered.

Similarly to common nouns referring to a single object that is unambiguously determined in discourse, proper nouns express nongeneric, specific reference. The two basic means of determination of proper nouns are the definite article and the null article (which must be distinguished from the zero article). The use of both of these determiners tends to vary. The aim of this thesis is to describe this variation. It is to be determined, whether it is caused by simply linguistic factors or by extralinguistic factors as well.

The analysis concentrates mainly on the following groups of proper nouns: bridges, waterfalls, cars and musical compositions - proper nouns that have not, so far, been included in any of the representative grammars.

Apart from these groups, the focus of the analysis is also on determination of proper nouns previously classified from the point of article usage. Certain cases of variation shall be pointed out and discussed. Lastly, a chapter is dedicated to newly created proper nouns and determiners used with them.

Using the British National Corpus and various English newspapers, relevant examples will be excerpted and analyzed not only from the aspect of determination, but also semantically and formally. Results will be calculated and interpreted. It is to be determined where on the scale between proper names and definite noun phrases the particular examples stand