

The Italian gerund and its Czech equivalents: a parallel-corpus based study

The Italian gerund is a frequent indefinite verbal form. It's usually used in different verbal constructions or in implicit phrases. In those it can have various functions. We can classify gerundio modale, strumentale, temporale, causale, ipotetico, concessivo and gerundio coordinato.

In this study is used a Czech-Italian parallel corpus InterCorp to analyze the gerund closer. It was found out that the most frequent gerunds in Italian texts are these: facendo, cercando, guardando, dicendo, parlando, essendo, lasciando, pensando, avendo, passando, seguendo, andando, ridendo, sorridendo, indicando, vedendo, diventando, tenendo, correndo and dando.

A sub-corpus, texts by I. Calvino, was chosen in order to compare these most common forms in general with the most frequent gerunds from single texts. The study analyzes particular examples of the gerunds, their functions and their translations into the Czech language in this sub-corpus. The different types of translations are classified according to the classification made by S. Hamplová in her *Mluvnice italštiny* (Italian Grammar). In accordance with this source the gerund in the sub-corpus is mostly translated by a coordinated or subordinated phrase, a nominal construction or by a participle.

On the basis of the sub-corpus the study presents also several frequency lists of the particular gerundial types. They show that the gerund is mostly used in its modal function followed with gerundio temporale, causale, coordinato, strumentale and concessivo. There is no example of gerundio ipotetico in the sub-corpus. The different functions of the gerunds seem to be related also to different semantic functions of the verbs but due to insufficient extent of the sub-corpus it could not have been proved.

The final chapter defines the relations between the gerundial types and different possibilities of translations into Czech. The author hypothesizes that the gerundial types could correspond to the translations with a similar semantic function. This assumption has been proved as not exact, since the translators of real texts follow rather the logic and fluency of the text than any limiting rules.