

Abstract

„The Spanish Insults“

The objective of the present paper was to explore, as the title indicates, the rich variety of the Spanish insults. We centered mainly on the comparison of the Spanish insults to the Czech insults and observed the differences and specific characteristics of Spanish insults.

We began the first part with the definition of formal and informal language and its sociolects, because we believe that it helps to understand the properties of the insults, since they have many common characteristics with the sociolects. Afterwards, we tried to describe the historical and cultural backgrounds, because due to different evolutions in each country, the habits to use insults and curses are different, especially concerning the curses, which are still very common in Spain. In Czech Republic the curses fell into oblivion during the last century, while the people were becoming more atheistic.

The role of taboo is also very important, because in each society, taboo is what's influencing the usage and the importance of every insult. Nevertheless, the insults don't serve only for attacking somebody or to show disappointment, but they also have other functions, such as identifying with the members of the group or to address someone in a friendly way.

In the practical part, we first described the semantic fields of the insults, since they are quite specific and different to the Czech. Then we applied the obtained information to the analysis on the parallel Spanish-Czech language corpus, where we studied the frequency of use of the insults *puta* and *cabrón* by means of a contrastive case study approach.

Afterwards, we elaborated another case study based on the data from the movie *Stories from the Kronen* and compared the results with the case studies worked out on the language corpus.

In general we hope to have given an overview of the vast spectrum of the Spanish insults and their main features in comparison with Czech insults, which can still offer a field for further research.