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BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

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České práci věty uvozené *kěž* a *ať* a jejich anglické překladové ekvivalenty

Czech optative sentences introduced by *kěž* and *ať* and their English translation counterparts

Praha, 2015

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Tímto bych chtěla poděkovat vedoucí své práce PhDr. Gabriele Brůhové, Ph.D. za její trpělivost a ochotu, stejně jako za cenné rady, které mi dopomohly k úspěšnému dokončení práce.

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně, že jsem řádně citovala všechny použité prameny a literaturu a že práce nebyla využita v rámci jiného vysokoškolského studia či k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.

V Praze dne 6. srpna 2015

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Souhlasím se zapůjčením bakalářské práce ke studijním účelům.

## **Abstract**

The thesis studies Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* and *ať* and their English translation counterparts. The features of the two respective types of sentences differ notably – while sentences introduced by *kéž* may appear in present or past conditional as well as in indicative, each one indicating different temporal reference of the wish, sentences with *ať* make use of indicative only. This difference is expected to cause each of them to be paired with different counterparts or cause one counterpart to be more popular with one of the sentence types than with the other. All of the typical means in the English language conveying the function of a wish, usually classed under exclamative sentences, appear among the examples as well as some of the less common means. Focus is given to the interdependence of translation counterparts with time reference of the wish and its un/realizability. In cases where the time orientation of the wish cannot be the decisive factor, attention will be paid to the style of the text or fixity of the phrases. For the purpose of the analysis one hundred examples of Czech optative sentences– fifty sentences introduced by *kéž* and fifty introduced by *ať* – together with their English translation counterparts were extracted from InterCorp.

**keywords:** translation counterparts, optative sentences, particles

## Abstrakt

Tato práce studuje české práci věty uvozené částicemi *kéž* a *at'* a jejich anglické překladové ekvivalenty. Rysy těchto dvou typů vět se značně liší – zatímco věty uvozené částicí *kéž* se mohou objevit v přítomném či minulém kondicionálu, stejně jako v indikativu, v závislosti na čemž jde o různé časové odkazy přání, věty uvozené částicí *at'* užívají pouze indikativu. V důsledku tohoto rozdílu se lze domnívat, že každý z větných typů bude mít různé překladové protějšky nebo způsobí, že se některé překladové protějšky budou častěji vyskytovat s jedním větným typem než s druhým. Všechny typické způsoby sloužící k vyjádření přání v angličtině, které jsou obvykle řazené pod rozkazovací věty, se objevují mezi příklady, stejně jako některé méně konvenční prostředky. Analýza se bude koncentrovat na vzájemnou provázanost překladových protějšků a časového odkazu přání spolu se splnitelností přání. V případech, kdy časová orientace nemůže být rozhodujícím faktorem, bude pozornost věnována stylu textu a ustálenosti frází. Za účelem analýzy bylo z InterCorpu vyextrahováno sto příkladů českých prací vět – padesát uvozených *kéž* a padesát uvozených *at'* – spolu s jejich anglickými překladovými protějšky.

**klíčová slova:** překladové protějšky, práci věty, částice

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# 1 Introduction

The aim of the present thesis is to study Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* and *ať* and their English counterparts. These types of Czech sentences constitute two of the most typical optative structures in the Czech language, but their respective features differ notably. While sentences introduced by *kéž* may appear in present or past conditional as well as in indicative, each one indicating different temporal reference of the wish, sentences with *ať* make use of indicative only. This difference is sure to cause each of the type to be paired with different counterparts or cause one counterpart to be more popular with one of the sentence types than with the other. All of the typical means in the English language conveying the function of a wish, usually classed under exclamative sentences, are expected to appear among the examples as well as some of the less common means. Focus will be given to the interdependence of individual structures and temporal reference of the wish together with its un/realizability; special attention will be paid to the style of the text and fixity of certain phrases.

The theoretical part discusses different views on often neglected optative sentences in the Czech language, which – although a sentence type of its own – are not given much attention. The distinction between realizable and unrealizable wishes is made and the difference between sentences introduced by *ať* and *kéž* is explored. In its second part the problematic categorization of English sentences with the optative meaning is discussed as well as their respective forms. The thesis mainly draws on *Příruční mluvnice češtiny* (2008) and *Skladba češtiny* (1998) by Miroslav Grepl et al. with additional remarks from František Daneš et al.'s *Mluvnice češtiny* (3), *Skladba* (1987) and from *Mluvnice současné češtiny* (1) *Jak se píše a mluví* (2010) by Václav Cvrček et al. For the English part *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2005) by Libuše Dušková et al. is used as the primary source as well as Rodney Huddleston, Geoffrey K. Pullum et al.'s *The Cambridge Grammar of the*

*English Language* (2002) and Michaels Swan's *Practical English Usage* (2005). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985) by Randolph Quirk et al. is also used to support some of the more grammatical arguments.

The empirical part provides an analysis of one hundred examples of Czech optative sentences – fifty introduced by *kéž* and fifty introduced by *at'* – and their English counterparts. The examples were acquired from InterCorp, a parallel Czech-English corpora accessible through the web pages of the Czech National Corpus. In both cases the sentences are classified according to the grammatical structure used in their counterparts and the most frequent counterparts are determined. In case of sentences introduced by *kéž* temporal orientation of the wish connected with its realizability will be the main focus due to the three possible moods which can follow the particle. Additionally, in some of the cases style of the text and its connection with the use of respective structures will be inspected as well. Since sentences introduced by *at'* contain one mood only, the temporal orientation is not of concern. Instead the analysis will be focused on the type and style of text connected with particular structures; the fixity of the phrases will be taken into consideration and a special kind of unrealizable wish which is oriented towards the speaker himself and serves as an expression of attitude such as anger or surprise will be singled out.

The conclusion provides a brief overview of the results as well as direct contrast between the counterparts to the two types of Czech optative sentences. At the end of the thesis appendix is enclosed to provide the complete list of sentences extracted from the corpora and analysed in the analytical part.

## 2 Theoretical background

### 2.1 Czech optative sentences

When examining Czech optative sentences across diverse grammars of the Czech language, one is bound to encounter different approaches to the topic despite the infrequent and if any, then rather short discussion of the topic. The approaches therefore need to be discussed respectively in order to define the fundamental principle of Czech optative sentences.

#### 2.1.1 Traditional approach

Based on the sentence modality the Czech language traditionally recognizes four basic types of sentences, one of which is the optative type. According to Šmilauer's *Novočeská skladba* (1966: 25), its definition is that it expresses a particular desire of the speaker for something to either occur or not occur and is prompted by the speaker's emotions.

The traditional approach is mostly concerned with typical features of optative sentences. One such distinctive feature is the presence of optative particles, including *at'*, *když*, *kéž* or *necht'* (Cvrček et al., 2010: 297), which differ in their frequency due to different degree of archaicity. Šmilauer (1966:25) points out another frequent type of optative sentences in the form of independent subordinate clauses introduced by *aby*, *kdyby* or *by*, which are often accompanied by the particle *jen*:

*Jen aby se těm novým lidem tady dobře vedlo.*

*I wish the new people would succeed.*

Apart from these main types, verbless sentences are also frequent forms conveying optative meaning in Czech. Daneš et al. define them in *Mluvnice češtiny* [3] as a part of

“semiinteractional structures”<sup>1</sup> under which belong greetings, e.g. *Dobré ráno!* – *Good morning.* or “automated wishes,”<sup>2</sup> e.g. *Šťastnou cestu!* – *Bon voyage.* The largest difference between the two categories is the reaction of the listener – in the first case the reply usually requires the use of the same or similar phrase, while the second one is typically reciprocated with a *thank you* (1987: 440-1).

Additionally, infinitival constructions may convey a wish as well: *Moci tak klečet u tvých nohou!* – *To be allowed to kneel at your feet!* (Šmilauer, 1966:25). However, since the main aim of the thesis is sentences with particles *at’* and *kéž*, only these will be of interest to us.

### 2.1.2 Modern approach

More recent grammars no longer follow this distinction, but rather tend to define optative sentences in terms of the presence or absence of communicative function and/or attitude<sup>3</sup> of the speaker (towards a certain object, person, situation etc., possibly including the addressee as well) (cf. 2.1.2.1). Communicative functions constitute the objective of the speaker, his reason for uttering the sentence; they are numerous, rather difficult to classify and in spoken language highly dependable on intonation (Grepl et al., 2008: 586-7). The traditional Czech grammars typically state four types: indicative, interrogative, imperative and optative, but Grepl et al. assert that there are in fact several hundreds and strive to distinguish eight main categories with numeral subcategories

Grepl et al. further argue in *Průruční mluvnice češtiny* (2008: 628) that the optative attitudes are one of the subtypes of referential attitudes, which are defined as being un/interested in realization of something and are shared by all optative sentences. These are

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<sup>1</sup> Semiinterakční jednotky

<sup>2</sup> Automatizovaná přání

<sup>3</sup> Postoj

an inherent part of certain communicative functions, which they may indirectly indicate to the addressee.

### 2.1.2.1 Wish according to the addressee

Grepl et al. recognizes two types of wish (2008: 629-30): a wish addressed to a concerned addressee and a wish addressed to the speaker himself.

In the first case in which the wish is **addressed to a concerned party**, it is understood as a communicative function, not a mere expression of attitude. As a proof of this function serves the fact that the predicate *přát* – *to wish* can be used performatively: *Tak vám přeji...* – *I wish you...* Alternatively, the imperative form – either regular or a periphrastic one with *at'* – can be substituted in the sentence: *Bud'te spolu šťastni* – *Be happy together.* or *At' se vám daří.* – *Good luck.* Such type of optative sentences has by default the communicative function of a wish, but it may be thematized<sup>4</sup> (used in a different communicative function). In such case they are most frequently found in an assertive communicative function and thus serve to inform and transmit information about one's preferences:

*Chci vám říci...*

*I would like to tell you...,*

However, the sentence may be also used in a directive function, most likely in a request or a plea. This type of function is considerably rarer since the speaker is more likely to use an interrogative sentence, unless he intends to be more polite. This is also the reason why the optative attitudes are more likely to occur in requests or pleas rather than in a straightforward order or a command.

*Přeji si, abys...*

*I wish you would...*

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<sup>4</sup> Tematizované

An interrogative communicative function also constitutes a possibility; its usage would be a politer and more subtle version of a question.

*Přál bych si vědět, jestli se ta conference uskuteční.*

*I would like to know whether the conference will take place (or not).*

The second type of wish – the one **addressed to the speaker himself** – on the other hand, is according to Karlík and Grepl (1998: 488) defined as an expression of attitudes of the speaker – evaluative, epistemic, preferential and that of hopes and fears. It is an expression of the speaker's desire, a kind of plea directed towards God or other kind of force majeure. In such case the addressee is not needed and certainly not expected to display efforts in realizing the wish. An example of such a type of wish is:

*Kéž bych měl víc času!*

*I wish I had more time.*

The sentence expresses the speaker's desire for an extension of a particular time span and possibly also his despair of not having as much time as is needed. Depending on the presence or absence of the speaker's attitudes, realizable (cf. 2.1.2.2) and unrealizable (cf. 2.1.2.3)<sup>5</sup> wishes may be distinguished.

### 2.1.2.2 Realizable wish

If the above mentioned attitudes of the speaker are present (implied) in a wish, the respective wish is considered realizable. As far as verbal mood is concerned, indicative in present form and present conditional typically express this type of wish; however, present conditional is nowadays also used to express an unrealizable wish (cf. 2.1.2.3). Moreover, particular grammatical constructions are typically used to express realizable wishes and

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<sup>5</sup> Splnitelná / nesplnitelná přání

therefore serve as their indicators. Based on Grepl and Karlík's *Skladba češtiny* (1998: 488-9) these are:

- a. Complex sentences with predicators *přeji si, přál bych si, chtěl bych, byl bych rád*:

***Přál bych si, abych tu zkoušku udělal.***

*I wish I would pass the exam.*

- b. Fixed forms with optative particles:

***Kéž bych tu zkoušku udělal! / Kéž tu zkoušku udělám!***

*If only I would pass the test.*

- c. Infinitive:

***Žít tak na Tahiti!***

*To live on Tahiti!*

- d. Independent subordinate clauses with *aby*:

***Aby už byl konec!***

*I wish it would be over!*

- e. Other typical forms

***Zahrál bych si šachy.***

*I would like to play chess.*

According to Karlík and Grepl, a realizable wish may also be realized by a form composed of optative particle *kéž* and past indicative if the speaker does not know at the moment of speaking that the opposite has already happened and therefore still expresses hope:

***Kéž jsme nezabloudili!***

*I hope we didn't get lost.*

### 2.1.2.3 Unrealizable wish

Unrealizable wish does not contain the attitude of the speaker or frequently only infer one of them – a negative evaluation. Karlík and Grepl (1998: 488) therefore conclude that these are not wishes proper, but merely expressions of regret or disappointment of the speaker

over the fact that the state of things is different than he would desire and that it is unchangeably so. Unrealizable wishes may thus be categorized as emotional attitudes, rather than optative ones. These are connected more freely with the communicative function and merely accompany it, in spoken language often in forms of intonation (1998: 491).

A typical structure indicating an unrealizable wish is the past conditional, since it always indicates invariable opposite of the speaker's wish. The speaker may desire for certain things to have unfolded in a different manner, but – as they already occurred – such development is impossible.

*Kéž **bych byl** tu zkoušku udělal!*

*I wish I had passed the exam.*

However, as Cvrček et al. mention in *Mluvnice současné češtiny* (2010: 242), past conditional is nowadays considered archaic and is mostly restricted to literature. Present conditional replaces the past one in most cases with the most important exception being ambiguous context. Karlík and Grepl (1998: 489) also mention the possible infinitival construction for an unrealizable wish:

*Znovu se tak **narodit**!*

*To be born again.*

According to Daneš et al. (1987: 355), there is a specific type of unrealizable wish represented by the optative particle *at'* and present or future indicative, which serve as an expression of helplessness to change the state of things and consequent indignation. It is a construction close to sentence equivalents of subjective interjections.

***At'** do něho **praští** hrom!*

*May thunder struck him. / Damn him!*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> While the first example constitutes a close translation, the second one is most likely to be used since we are dealing with fixed expression typically used to express anger in the Czech language.



### 2.1.3 *At'* and *kěž*

According to Cvrček et al. (2010: 297), the two particles studied in the present thesis belong to the group of volitional<sup>7</sup> particles that express the will of the speaker. Grepl et al. in *Průruční mluvnice češtiny* (2008: 366) simply classify *kěž* as an optative particle – a category whose members are described as always standing at the beginning of a sentence and partaking in the creation of a wish. *At'* is classified as a conjunction, which in an independent subordinate clauses expresses a wish or a directive and is therefore very close to optative particles. What presents an important distinction between the two constructions following *at'* and *kěž* is that the first one is only followed by indicative, while the second one may be succeeded by indicative as well as conditional – both past and present.

The difference between sentences with *at'* in a directive communicative function and those in an optative one resulting from the disputable classification of *at'* is explained by Daneš et al. in *Mluvnice češtiny [3]* (1987: 336). A sentence introduced by *at'* is considered optative only if the addressee of the directive is unable to realize the given task (if it is not in his power). If the opposite is true, the sentence is considered an imperative one in a periphrastic form with the directive function of a command. According to my understanding and observation, the difference is illustrated in the following sentences:

*At' počká!* – *Let him wait.* (imperative)

*At' se brzy uzdravíš!* – *(I wish you a) speedy recovery.* (optative)

While the attitude expressed by the first sentence is clearly referential as it expresses one's interest in realization of certain action, it is not an optative one. It may become clearer if the first sentence is paraphrased as *Řekni mu, at' počká.* – *Tell him to wait.* Thus we may see that it is expected of the addressee to heed the order and that it is within his power. Consequently, one must conclude that the sentence is indeed an imperative one, while the second one is

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<sup>7</sup> Volní (voluntativní)

optative, for the addressee is not expected to be able to influence the *recovery*. The case is the same if the addressee is God or other spiritual entity whom/which the speaker cannot order (he may merely wish and hope that the wish is granted), nor does he have a reason to believe that he will be obeyed by such entities.

## **2.2 English optative sentences**

The same heterogeneous approach incident to defining the Czech optative sentences is likewise present in English. English optative sentences do not have a distinctive structure as their forms often differ greatly and therefore they cannot constitute a separate sentence type. They are thus sometimes classified under the sentence type of exclamative sentences (cf. Dušková et al., 2006:335). Alternatively, a number of grammars place them to a separate category, apart from the main sentence types, on the basis of their unique structure. Quirk et al. designate them as “irregular sentences” for they “do not conform to the regular patterns” and ellipsis cannot be convincingly postulated on them (1985: 838) and subsequently divide them into respective categories, while Huddleston, Pullum et al. simply place them under “minor clauses” (2002:944).

### **2.2.1 Illocutionary force**

If one were to investigate what these diverse structures so often have in common, one would clearly have to venture beyond the mere structure of the sentence to the core of the message. The illocutionary act, a term first introduced by John L. Austin and further elaborated by numerous linguists, does just that as it is concerned with “the way speaker is using the clause [...] in a particular context” (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002:858).

According to Austin, speech acts consist of three components – *locution*, *illocution* and *perlocution*. The *locution* is defined as “the act of saying something.” (Austin, 1962: 94),

but in the process of “saying something” we also perform an *illocutionary* act – “in what way we are using the *locution*” (1962: 98). *Illocution* is a “performance of an act in saying something” as opposed to *locution* (1962: 99); in other words we always use the content of a sentence, the “something” we say (the meaning and the reference) in a certain way. Finally, the *perlocutionary* act is the intentional effect of a speech act on the actions or thoughts of the hearer, a conscious process of influencing him.

Searle (1969: 24) distinguishes four components of speech acts – *utterance* act, *propositional* act (“referencing and predicating”), *illocutionary* act and *perlocutionary* act. More importantly, two types of *illocutionary* force are further distinguished – *primary* and *secondary* one. While the *secondary* one is connected with a sentence type, the *primary* one expresses the communicative intention of the speaker. This is of great importance since major grammatical forms, e. g. sentence types do not correlate perfectly with meanings and in certain contexts may have different signification. Alternatively, Quirk et al. do not distinguish two types of illocutionary acts and instead of a secondary force distinguish *discourse functions* associated with the four sentence types and an *illocutionary* act instead of Searle’s *primary* one, which indicates how these sentence types are used in an utterance (1985: 803-4).

If we use these distinctions on optative sentences, we must conclude that the secondary illocutionary force (or Quirks et al.’s discourse function) is typically an exclamation, for an optative structure and a proper exclamative sentence are both used to express emotional reactions and attitudes and an actual answer (other than a possible *thank you*) or a dispute over truthfulness of the statement is not being expected (Huddleson, Pullum et al. 2002: 922). This supports the classification of optative sentences under the exclamative ones.

The *primary* force, which is “associated with particular classes of sentences” in combination with context is that of a wish (Quirk et al., 1985: 805). What confirms it best is

the type of optative sentence with the main clause consisting of *I wish* followed by a nominal content clause. In such an instance the speaker explicitly refers to the illocutionary act through the use of the performative verb *wish* as it occasionally happens according to Quirk et al. and thus makes the (primary) illocutionary force more prominent (1985: 804). Austin puts *wish* in a special category he calls *behabitatives*, a group including “the notion of reaction to other people’s behaviour and fortunes” (1962: 159).

Analogically, we may view the category of communicative functions in *Příruční mluvnice češtiny* (cf. 2.1.2.1) as a kind of parallel to the (*primary*) *illocutionary* force. Both of them are highly dependent on a communicative situation and in both cases the same sentence may be used in a number of different senses – communicative functions/illocutionary acts. However, the Czech language further distinguishes attitudes, which are a part of communicative functions and thus a Czech optative sentence may have at the same time an optative attitude and be used in a communicative function such as directive – request (yet, the communicative function may simply be a wish as well), while the English optative sentence always has the illocutionary force of a wish.

## **2.2.2 English means of conveying a wish**

### **2.2.2.1 I wish**

According to Dušková et al. (2006:335) the construction with *I wish* in the main clause of a complex sentence followed by a nominal content clause is the most frequent type of sentences with optative meaning in English. The Grammatical tense used in the subordinate clause is dependent on the orientation of the wish towards specific time.

We use preterite to express the hypothetical meaning of a wish regarding the present; the verb *be* constitutes an exception as it may also occur in subjunctive. If the wish is aimed towards the future, *would* is used to “express regret or annoyance that something will not

happen” (Swan, 2005: 619) and for one regarding the past, pluperfect is applied. *Could* may appear in the construction as well, signaling either simultaneity with the act of wishing or posteriority and is rather colloquial.

As Huddleston and Pullum et al. point out, all of these tenses may express a modal rather than temporal meaning (2002: 1002). As an example serve subordinate sentences with different tenses, all of which concern the future. The example with past perfect is called “double remote” and is said to express a situation where something already happened which excludes the future realization of the wish. The term “double remote” is used because “it has two markers of modal remoteness, preterite and perfect:”

*I wish she had come tomorrow.*

The use of preterite for the wish concerning the future is called “futurate” and marks whether something is on the schedule:

*I wish the semester ended next week.*

*Would*, although still expressing a future reference, may be interpreted as indicating “volition”, the willingness of the concerned party (at the moment) not to do something we wish. However, the verb *wish* is generally not used if the concerned wish is about “things that seem possible in the future”, for in that scenario *hope* is used instead (Swan, 2005: 618).

*I wish you would come with us tomorrow.*

*I hope you pass your exam.*

While the first sentence indicates that it is rather unlikely or impossible for the wish to become realized, the second one includes no insuperable obstacles and the speaker has a reason to express hope. In a similar manner, *could* may be used modally if followed by past infinitive, conveying the meaning of regret over something in the past that the speaker wishes to be able to change, over a certain “non-actualised ability” (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 203).

*I wish I could have persuaded her.*

In rare cases, the main clause may constitute of conditional form of the lexical verb *would* instead of *wish* with the same type of subordinate sentence following (Dušková et al., 2006:336). The subject of the main clause – *I* – is usually left unexpressed. This type of sentence is considered archaic and has a similar or identical interpretation as the sentence using the verb *wish* (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 944).

*(I) Would (that) it were otherwise.*

#### **2.2.2.2 May**

The modal verb *may* can appear as an expression of wish in one of its special “deontic” uses and its approximate meaning would be ‘I hope/pray’ (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 184). This construction is marked by subject-verb inversion and, according to Dušková et al., it is mostly used in books or other formal written discourse (2006: 335). Falling intonation is equally important for this structure as the inversion since it distinguishes the optative sentence from a question. Quirk et al. (1985: 147) even argue that the change of the position of *may* to mark it as a wish is an example of modals developing into “pragmatic particles”.

*May no harm befall you.*

#### **2.2.2.3 Subjunctive**

Subjunctive is an archaic type of mood used to talk about “unreal situations: things which are possible, desirable or imaginary” (Swan, 2005: 559) that survived from Old English. Although it is still productive in subordinate clauses, in independent clauses it may be found in “a narrow range of fixed expressions and formulaic frames,” e.g. *God help us*. (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 944). This is the type of subjunctive Quirk et al. classify as “formulaic” or “optative” and describe it as “formal and rather old-fashioned in style”

(1985: 158). If an adverbial stands at the beginning of the sentence, subject-verb inversion ensues (Dušková et al., 2006: 335) – *Long live equality!* Biber et al. also point out that such inversion frequently occurs with strong wishes, e.g. *So help me God.* and argue that the expressions are thus given a “solemn tone” (2002: 409).

#### 2.2.2.4 If only

The optative sentence introduced by *if only* serves to express an “exclamatory wish” (Quirk et al., 1985: 842) and is, according to Dušková et al., a type closest to that of Czech optative sentences (2006: 335). The tense used in the following sentence depends on whether the wish is directed towards the present, past or future in the same manner as that of verbs following the main clause with *I wish* (cf. 2.2.2.1). The meaning is roughly the same as that of *I wish*, but more emphatic (Swan, 2005: 241). In regards to structure, the sentence has the same form as can be seen in conditionals with the exception of the main clause not being expressed and a falling intonation., e.g. *If only one could see into the future.* However, Huddleston, Pullum et al. (2002: 751) mention that while it is true that *if only* in its idiomatic sense of a wish for a fulfilment of a condition is mostly restricted to what he calls “remote conditionals”, they argue that they do occur in the “open type” as well:

*I could have solved that problem myself if only I'd have a little more time.*

As stated by Quirk et al. (1985: 842), this type of optative sentence offers alternative structures using a different position of *only* or substituting *only* for *just* or *but* while conveying the same meaning:

*If I'd **only** listened to my parents!*

*If I could **just** make them understand my point of view!*

*If I could **but** explain!*

#### **2.2.2.5 Other means of conveying optative meaning**

Besides the four main types of optative structures, the English language also uses other optative-nonspecific means such as verbless sentences, formulae, imperative sentences or periphrastic imperative constructions with *let* to express a wish, especially in a spoken discourse.

##### **2.2.2.5.1 Verbless sentences**

As Swan says, “every language has fixed expressions which are used on particular social occasions” (2005: 534) such as meeting, parting or going on a journey. A great deal of these expressions are usually used independently as verbless sentences without subject or “nonsentences” as Quirk et al. classify them (1985: 849). These “occur frequently in speech, mostly in informal conversation” and serve numerous purposes, but as far as the present thesis is concerned only a small number of them may serve as an equivalent to a Czech optative sentence. For the most part, the nonsentences used in order to express a wish are substantival and consists of a noun phrases, e.g. *Good luck*.

##### **2.2.2.5.2 Formulae**

Very close to the category of nonsentences are so-called “formulae” (Quirk et al., 1985: 852) which are “grammatically irregular” and the possibility of their analysis into clause elements is very limited. One of the types which is relevant to us is “expressions of anger and dismissal”, e.g. *Damn you!* These are often used to wish something negative to someone or to simply voice one’s indignation over the state of things and possible helplessness as is the case in certain Czech sentences expressing an unrealisable wish (cf. 2.1.2.3). According to Huddleston, Pullum et al., the construction with *damn* was “understood with *God* as subject”, but their interpretation in present-day language is different.



The subject is unimportant in today's understanding of the construction as they may be regarded as "an exceptional interjections that combine with a NP complement to form an interjection phrase" (2002: 1361).

#### **2.2.2.5.3 Imperative sentences**

The optative meaning may be also conveyed by imperative sentences. According to Quirk et al. it is due to the fact that optative sentences "are used for a wide range of illocutionary acts" (1985: 831) and an example of an imperative sentence with the illocutionary force of a wish is listed:

*Have a good time.*

It is clear in this case that the sentence is not used to "tell or ask somebody to do something," yet the sentence clearly has an imperative form (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 854).

An imperative construction using the periphrastic structure with *let* may perform the role of an optative sentence as well. This construction consists of the verb *let* in its auxiliary function, personal pronoun in an objective case or a substantive and a lexical verb in its infinitival form, but without *to* (Dušková et al., 2006: 330). As Quirk et al. point out, *let* is behaving in the same manner as *may* when it is placed at the beginning of a sentence to mark it as a wish. In such sentences *let* "may be regarded as a pragmatic particle of [...] optative mood" (1985: 148). This is especially the case if the object following *let* is neither the speaker nor the hearer:

*Let the world take notice.*

### 3 Material and Methods

The empirical part consists of an analysis of one hundred optative sentences – fifty of them introduced by *kéž* and fifty by *at'* – and their English counterparts. The examples were excerpted from the core of InterCorp, a parallel Czech-English corpus, which can be accessed through the web pages of the Czech National Corpus. For the search purposes *kéž* or *at'* were entered as word forms with a capital letter at the beginning to find the most relevant examples and in both cases the first fifty examples which fitted the criteria of optative sentences were taken.

While *kéž* sentences presented almost no problem, those introduced by *at'* had to be sorted manually due to the occurrence of two major types of sentences which could not be used for the purpose of the thesis. The first type of sentence that needed to be excluded was the adverbial sentence of concession such as *At' už je to náhoda nebo není, většina medvědů, které jsem dosud měl, si vybírá cestu do 'velkého' světa právě tímto směrem*. The second type is the one mentioned at the end of the theoretical part concerning the Czech optative sentences (cf. 2.1.3) and which is due to the ability of the addressee to realize the wish or rather an order as well as the fact that he is expected to do so found to be a periphrastic form of an imperative sentence (“*At' mi nevykrváčíš na koberec!*”).

In both cases the sentences are classified according to the grammatical structure used in their counterparts. After determining the most frequent counterparts, they will be examined respectively in order from the most frequent ones to the rarer ones. In the case of sentences introduced by *kéž* temporal orientation of the wish connected with its realizability is the main focus due to the three possible moods which can follow the particle and which decide about the orientation of the wish. Other features of the sentences are examined, such as specification of time through adverbs or elliptical structures. Additionally, in some of the cases style of the text and its connection with the use of respective structures is studied as well. As a final point

the Czech usage of moods corresponding to particular temporal references is contrasted with English usage of tense or other features decisive of temporal orientation of the wish in the English language. Since sentences introduced by *at'* contain one mood only, the temporal orientation is not of concern. Instead the analysis is focused on the type and style of text connected with particular structures; the fixity of the phrases is taken into consideration and a special kind of unrealizable wish (cf. 2.1.2.3) which is oriented towards the speaker himself and serves as an expression of attitude such as anger or surprise is singled out.

During the analysis examples are given with the examined feature (mostly the form of the verb or the whole phrase in case of fixed expressions) marked in bold letters and occasionally with other additional features underlined. Tables are inserted through the text to offer quick and easy orientation as well as a complete overview if possible.

## 4 Analysis

### 4.1 Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž*

The following part is dedicated to close examination of Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* and their English counterparts. The following table represents numerical and percentual occurrence of diverse English counterparts to the fifty Czech optative sentence introduced by *kéž* extracted from the corpora.

**Table 1: Counterparts to Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž***

Counterparts to Czech optative sentences introduced by <i>kéž</i>	No.	%
Sentences introduced by <i>I wish</i>	22	44%
Sentences introduced by <i>if only</i>	12	24%
Sentences introduced by <i>may</i>	8	16%
Sentences introduced by <i>I hope</i>	4	8%
<i>(I) would that</i> sentences	2	4%
Subjunctive	1	2%
Modal idiom	1	2%
Total	50	100%

#### 4.1.1 Sentences introduced by *I wish*

Complex sentences introduced by *I wish* are by far the most frequent counterparts to the first type of Czech optative sentences discussed in the present thesis.

- (1) „*Kéž bychom tady nahoře mohli mít oheň, jako mají dole v táboře!*“  
“*I wish we could have a fire up here as they have in the camp!*”

This is largely due to the fact that *I wish* is not generally applied in wishes which seem altogether possible, but rather in those cases when the action already occurred, a condition needs to be met or – if the wish points to the future – the speaker has a reason to believe that the opposite of the desired would happen (Swan, 2005: 618). This is in accordance with the

structure of Czech sentences following the particle *kéž*, which are often found in the conditional mood. Conditional is known to express an action which is hypothetical (dependent on certain condition, hypothesis etc.) or unreal (Cvrček et al., 2010: 242).

However, while in English the temporal realization of the verb in the subordinate clause is well divided between wishes referring to respective times, the Czech distinction is rather blurred. This is largely due to the fact that the present conditional is gradually taking over the function of the past conditional and therefore represents a number of functions. While it primarily stands for a realizable condition, its use for an unrealizable one is growing and in certain cases the context is the only disambiguator determining the realizability (cf. 2.1.2.2 and 2.1.2.3). Let us therefore examine the English sentences from the point of view of lexical tense used in the subordinate clause and compare them to the Czech structure.

According to the tense used in the subordinate clause we may determine the time the sentence is referring to and consequently the un/realizability of the wish (especially in English). Moreover, in this way we can further examine ambiguous examples (such as *could*) whose reference may be dual.

**Table 2: Sentences introduced by *I wish* according to the usage of tense**

Tense used in sentences introduced by <i>I wish</i>	No.	%
Preterite	10	45,5%
Modal verbs ( <i>could, may, might</i> ) <sup>8</sup>	9	40,9%
Pluperfect	3	13,6%
Total	22	100%

When examining the table above, it is clear that the use of tenses is evenly distributed between preterite and modal verbs, with pluperfect being used considerably less. *Would*,

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<sup>8</sup> Modal verbs are singled out due to their “abnormal time reference” (Quirk et al., 1985: 128), which marks them as specific means able to express more than one time reference by one form and their actual reference is thus often indiscoverable from the sentence only.

although a frequent way of referring to the future, does not appear even once among the examples.

#### 4.1.1.1 *I wish* followed by preterite

Preterite is used in English to express a wish concerning the present and corresponds well to the Czech counterparts in present conditional, which typically address hypothetical present condition. Even though the present conditional is used more and more frequently as a means of denoting the past and thus causes ambiguities, upon examining the context and the English counterparts, there is no reason not to believe that in this case all of the concerned Czech sentences are indeed referring to the present. In one sentence it is even made explicit by the use of adverbial *ted'* – *now*.

- (2) „Kéž **bych** **byl** zpátky ve své hobití noře u vlastního teplého krbu a svítící lampy!“

“I wish I **was** back in my hobbit-hole by my own warm fireside with the lamp shining!”

- (3) „Kéž **by** ted' chlapec **byl** se mnou!“ řekl nahlas...

“I wish the boy **was** here,” he said aloud...

#### 4.1.1.2 *I wish* followed by modal verbs

The second most frequent construction, which is in frequency comparable with preterite, is one with modal verbs. All of the Czech counterparts to sentences with *I wish* followed by modal verb consist of the present conditional and all but one contain a modal verb, either primary one or a modal verb in a larger sense (Grepel et al., 2008: 533). *Moci* is the most frequent one, *dát se* – a colloquial equivalent of *it would be possible to* – and *dokázat* – *to manage* each make an appearance once. As we know from the usage of *could*, the wish is referring either to the present or to the future (or possibly to the whole span) and is used to represent a potentially possible outcome.

- (4) *Kéž bych se **mohl** odchýlit a povědět vám víc o pavor nocturnus , který mě začal pekelně trýznit poté, co jsem jako chlape , čtoucí , co mi přišlo pod ruku, narazil na takový nahodilý pojem jako peine forte et dure...*

*I wish I **might** digress and tell you more of the PAVOR NOCTURNUS that would rack me at night hideously after a chance term had struck me in the random readings of my boyhood , such as PEINE FORTE ET DURE...*

- (5) *Kéž bych je **dokázala** sestavit!*

*I wish I **could** piece them together!*

In one of the examples a different use of *could* can be found – the structure *could* followed by past infinitive. This is a construction used to talk about past possibilities, which remained unrealized, and the wish is therefore referring to the past, unlike the other sentences. The Czech counterpart is formed by present conditional, although the grammatically correct expression would be past conditional due to the unrealizability of the wish and the finality of the situation, which happened in the time that has already ended. This is – as was already mentioned – owing to the fact that present conditional is taking its place to such an extent that only 2% of conditionals nowadays are the past ones as Cvrček et al. states in *Mluvnice současné češtiny* (2010: 242). As a consequence, the sentence in Czech is ambiguous and it is unclear whether the wish is referring to the past or the future. Without the context, it would even be more probable to interpret it as a future wish:

- (6) *„Kéž by tak **mohla** přijet na svatbu!“ zatoužila jsem.*

*“I wish she **could have been** here,” I said,*

As for the particular modal verbs, the majority of sentences use *could*, while *might* and *may* appear each once. They do not seem to cause any notable difference and thus they are interchangeable. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 223-4), it is possible in a certain context for these three to be interchangeable and in such a case *may* is simply a more formal alternative to *could* and *might* is used in a “less probable or less definite” situation (Swan, 2005: 315).

#### 4.1.1.3 *I wish* followed by pluperfect

Pluperfect always expresses a wish regarding the past and such a wish is always unreal and unrealizable since the past is already over and unchangeable. It typically denotes regret over the unfolding of certain events. In Czech the correct construction for this scenario is the past conditional and even though its use is greatly reduced, it is employed in all three instances. Consequently, the time reference in these sentences and the unrealizability are undisputable even in Czech. It is, however, reasonable to think that we are dealing with a conscious decision of the translator to retain the exact reference of the original English sentence.

(7) „*Kéž **bych byl nezazpíval** jedinou píseň, mohl jsem s ostatními tuláky a sebrankou přijít do ráje.*“

*“More than anything else I wish I **had never sung** a single song; then, like other lowlife and scum, I would have entered paradise!*

#### 4.1.1.4 Elliptical structures following *I wish*

As a final point concerning sentences introduced by *I wish*, let us look at several instances of elliptic structures – an occurrence when “elements of a sentence which are predictable from context can be omitted” (Quirk et al., 1985: 82). It is mostly used to avoid redundancy and the “word(s) whose meaning is understood or implied must be recoverable” (Quirk et al., 1985: 884). Three such structures appear between the English as well as the Czech sentences.

Two of them are in preterite – a particle within the predication is omitted in one of them (example 8) while the other one is missing a notional subject after existential *there*-construction (example 9). The full versions of the sentences would be: *I wish I were **lying**, my dear.* (example 8) as a reaction to the previous accusation *You’re lying.* and *I wish there were **some bearing (on a current case)**.* as a replay to a question asking whether there is any



bearing. Both Czech sentences use the same ellipsis that consists of the particle *kéž* followed only by the conditional auxiliary *by*. If the sentence were to be completed, it would require lexical verbs in an appropriate form and in one case other clause elements that are required by the valency of the verb – *Kéž bych lhal, moje milá.* (example 8) and *Kéž by to (S) s tím (O<sub>prep</sub>) souviselo* (example 9).

- (8) „*Kéž by, moje milá.*”  
*“I wish I were, my dear.”*

- (9) *Kéž by.*  
*I wish there were.*

The third ellipsis appears with a modal verb and not only is the lexical verb omitted, but the subject *I* is missing as well. According to Swan, the loss of personal pronouns at the beginning of a sentence is a frequent occurrence, especially in informal spoken English (2005: 160). The full version of the sentence is: *I wish I could wear red.* as an addition and reaction to a lament concerning the fact that she *can't wear red*. The verb *to wear* requires an object (*red*) and so it must be added to the sentence as well. The form of the Czech ellipsis also contains a lexical verb *moci* – *can* to which a lexical verb in infinitive needs to be added to create a complete unelliptical sentence. Since the verb has the same valency as its English counterpart, an object is also required: *Kéž bych mohla nosit červenou.*

- (10) *Kéž bych mohla.*  
*Wish I could.*

#### 4.1.2 Sentences introduced by *if only*

Sentences introduced by *if only* constitute the second most frequent type of structure corresponding to Czech sentences introduced by *kéž*, but their occurrence is almost half of that of sentences with *I wish*. The following table focuses on the use of tense in these sentences:

**Table 3: Sentences introduced by *if only* according to the usage of tense**

Tense used in sentences introduced by <i>If only</i>	No.	%
Modal verbs ( <i>could</i> )	5	41,7%
Preterite	4	33,3%
Pluperfect	3	25%
Total	12	100%

#### 4.1.2.1 *If only* followed by modal verbs

Table 3 demonstrates that neither of the tenses unequivocally predominates over the others and modal verbs gain the status of most frequently used means of conveying time by only one example. Despite them all being categorized as sentences introduced by *if only*, only three of the five sentences with a modal verb indeed contain the word *only*, in all cases in an alternative position, postponed between the modal and lexical verb.

- (11) „*Kéž bych ho **mohla strhnout** do propasti, kam on sám uvrhl tolik obětí!*“  
*“Oh, if I **could** only **pull** him into the pit where he has pushed so many!”*

One sentence is an alternative form of the *if only* structure (cf. 2.2.2.4) which employs *but* instead of *only*.

- (12) *Kéž **bys** i ty **poznala** takové blaho!*  
*If I **could** but **see** you as happy!*

The last example omits *only* as well as any other possible substitution and remains expressed simply by *if* and the corresponding intonation.

- (13) *Kéž **bych** ho **mohla** **ponížit!***  
*If I **could** **pull** him down!*

The employed modal verb is the same in all instances – *could*, unlike the more colourful selection of modal verbs following *I wish*. Four of the sentences contain in the Czech version the word *moci*, corresponding to English *can/could*. While the fifth one remains without counterpart, it would be possible to add *moci* without changing the current meaning (example 12).

As for the time reference and the subsequent realizability of the wish, in three instances the verb *could* is used with present infinitive and thus refers to the present or future. The two other instances of *could* are followed by past infinitive, referring to the past and expressing wish for things to have unfolded differently than they did. These wishes are therefore unrealizable. In their Czech counterparts the rare past conditional is found in both cases, which have the same source and translator. Sounding rather archaic and unnatural, they would very likely be spoken in present conditional. The use of the past one is probably a conscious choice of the translator to preserve the original time reference from English, which is in both cases supported by the reference towards specific past events. Moreover, the fantasy genre of the book also allows for the use of more archaic expressions.

- (14) *Kéž **by byl mohl zemřít** jako Hedvika, tak rychle, že by si to ani nestačil uvědomit.*

*If he **could** only **have died** like Hedwig, so quickly he would not have known it had happened!*

- (15) *Kéž **by byl mohl zemřít** onoho letního večera, kdy nadobro odešel z domu číslo čtyři v Zobí ulici a kdy ho zachránila hůlka s perem ušlechtilého fénixe!*

*If he **could** only **have died** on that summer's night when he had left number four, Privet Drive, for the last time, when the noble phoenix feather wand had saved him!*

#### 4.1.2.2 *If only* followed by preterite

The use of preterite marks – as is the case with *I wish* sentences – a wish referring to the present. In the corresponding Czech sentences present conditional is used, which has the same point of reference and therefore is in accordance with English.

- (16) *„Kéž **by** to tak **byla** pravda,“ povzdechne si smutně Widsun.  
“If only that **were** true,” sighs Widsun dolefully.*

As far as the structure is concerned, three of the sentences have the traditional form with *only* and in one case *but* is substituted instead.

- (17) *Kéž **by se našel** druhý takový muž pro tebe!*  
*If there were but such another man for you!*

#### 4.1.2.3 *If only followed by pluperfect*

The survey reveals the sentences with pluperfect to be the least frequent, though not by far. The character of the structure as well as its reference corresponds to that of *could* with past infinitive, i.e. a wish referring to the past, expressing regret over the things that happened. The Czech sentences, however, in this case do not correspond and the past conditional does not appear at all; instead present conditional is used and some of the sentences thus appear ambiguous.

- (18) *Kéž **by tak přišel** „on“, aby mě utěšil!*  
*Oh, if only “he” **had come** to comfort me.*

The example 18 may be understood as a wish concerning the future due to its form and the only indicator that it may be otherwise is the context, in this sentence mainly the emphasised *on – he*. It is possible to understand it as a reference to the past event of someone coming whom the speaker wishes to had been *on – him*. However, the sentence still remains largely ambiguous in Czech. The reference of the next sentence is similarly vague or even more so due to the absence of any clear disambiguator.

- (19) *Kéž **by to ten ubohý kos nikdy neřekl!***  
*Poor little Blackbird! If **he had** only **kept** his words to himself!*

The third and final example is the clearest one, which – despite its present conditional form – contains a clear disambiguator *tehdy – then*, which points towards the past.

- (20) *Kéž **by za mnou tehdy přišla.***  
*If only she **had come** to me.*

### 4.1.3 Sentences introduced by *may*

Sentences with *may* were found as a counterpart to 16% of Czech sentences introduced by *kéž* and are the third largest group. Unlike in previous cases, temporal distinction is not necessary, for all of the sentences clearly point towards the future or the timespan from now on. In six cases the sentences in Czech are in indicative and point towards the same time.

- (21) *Kéž **je** tvůj osud jiný než můj a tvůj poklad s tebou **zůstane** až do konce!*  
*May your doom **be** other than mine, and your treasure **remain** with you to the end!*
- (22) *„Kéž **přineseš** dobrou radu Denethorovi v jeho nouzi i nám všem, Mithrandire!“ zvolal Ingold.*  
*‘May you **bring** good counsel to Denethor in his need, and to us all, Mithrandir!’ Ingold cried.*

In the two remaining cases present conditional is employed, which primarily also indicates a wish towards the future and is in one case even accompanied by adverbial of time *nadále* – *henceforth / from now on*.

- (23) *Kéž **by našel** následovníky v co největším měřítku!*  
*May this attempt **find** imitators on a grand scale!*
- (24) *Kéž **by** tomu tak **bylo** i nadále!*  
*May it **continue** to do so!*

As already mentioned (cf. 2.2.2.2), *may* is the most formal of the modal verbs and is slightly archaic, thus supplying these constructions with a touch of formality and archaic character typical of speech in fairytales and fantasy stories. It is then fitting that majority of these examples originate from the fantasy series *The Lord of the Rings*, which is full of archaic expressions. The other two are a chronicle of sorts – a historical story *Bosnian Chronicle*, which would again be prone to archaic speech, and a book of psychological study in which we probably deal with a question of formality. Furthermore, it may be interesting to notice that in many cases an inanimate object or a higher entity is addressed such as *the*

*Almighty, the stars or the Valar* (a high-standing fictional group), all of which are likely seen as entities worthy of respect. This fact once again supports the use of *may* as a sign of formal and respectful language.

#### 4.1.4 Sentences introduced by *I hope*

In four cases the counterpart to the Czech *kéž* sentence was found in *I hope* structure, which is a quite high number and therefore relevant; *I hope* thus needs to be examined separately, for even though the structure is rather similar to sentences introduced by *I wish*, the following usage of tense differs. In all four instances the subordinate clause employs simple present, future construction with *will* or a modal verb and therefore all of the wishes concern the future. Moreover, the use of *I hope* construction instead of *I wish* sentence suggests that the wish is likely to come true, as that is the most frequent use of *I hope* (cf. 2.2.2.1).

Simple present and future construction with modal auxiliary *will* have the same meaning if following *I hope* (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 1004) and *may* in the last case simply adds modality to the meaning of the sentence. The Czech counterparts use present conditional with a clear future meaning, which is in two instances stressed by the adverb *už* – *already*. The sentence corresponding to English *may* contains a modal verb in Czech as well.

(25) *Kéž by to už mohlo být brzy!*

*I only hope it may be soon.*

(26) *Kéž bych umřela ve svém vlastním - družstevním a milovaném - bytě!*

*I only hope I die in my own precious little cooperative apartment.*

#### 4.1.5 (I) *would that* sentences

The structure *would that* is an archaic one and thus appears only in minority of sentences – in our case two sentences out of fifty. It represents an old variation of *I wish* sentence and so the following tenses and their distinction is the same. Both examples appear in their usual form with the subject *I* omitted, but the time references of the wishes differ.

The first sentence points towards the past in both languages, using *could* followed by past infinitive to express regret in English and an incomplete form of past conditional in Czech. The incompleteness resides in the fact that instead of the proper form – auxiliary verb *být* in past tense (*byla, byl, byli*) + special conditional form of *být* (*bych, by, bysme*) + past tense of lexical verb – only the conditional form and lexical verb are present, which is typical for the present conditional. However, as the lexical verb has its proper past form (and not present as is the case in present conditional), it is clear that we are indeed dealing with a past conditional and therefore a wish with a past reference.

(27) *Kéž bych tu býval dřív!*

*Would that I could have been here sooner!*

The second example refers to the present, employing preterite in English and present conditional in Czech.

(28) *Kéž by tady byl Gandalf!*

*Would that Gandalf were here!*

It should be remarked that we find similar connections between the archaic character of the expressions and the genre as we did with *may*. Both sentences appear in *The Lord of the Rings*, a fantasy series known for its archaic and fabulous speech.

#### 4.1.6 Subjunctive

English subjunctive rarely corresponds to Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* since it occurs only once. The example is a wish referring to the future, as is typical for

subjunctive, and it has a present conditional employed in the Czech variant. Furthermore, we can observe that the wish is aimed at *heaven*, an entity frequently combined with subjunctive, creating together expressions that are fixed to a certain degree. This example is also in accordance with our previous discovery in case of *may*, i.e. English tends to use more formal and archaic expressions when addressing higher forces.

- (29) *Kéž by nám nebe seslalo studené noci a déšť!*  
*Heaven send us cold nights and rain!*

#### 4.1.7 Modal idiom

Another rare example is the single occurrence of a modal idiom *would rather*, where *would* expresses “modal remoteness” (Huddleston, Pullum et al., 2002: 108) and together with the adverb *rather* stands for a preference. As the expression is followed by past infinitive, the wish refers to the past and marks a desire for a different development, which is of course unrealizable.

The Czech counterpart consists of past conditional and its time reference as well as unrealizability is thus clear and in accordance with the English version. The meaning of preference of the modal idiom is in Czech expressed by the adverb *radši*, which corresponds to the adverb *rather*.

- (30) *„Kéž bych ji byl radši nepotkal!“ říkal si.*  
*‘I would rather **not have seen** her,’ he said to himself.*

#### 4.1.8 Final overview and comparison

As the final step, let us now compare temporal references of all Czech sentences introduced by *kéž* with all of their English counterparts regardless of their form. Beginning with the Czech sentences, which are more homogenous as far as their form is concerned, we will now observe the use of verbal mood and subsequent temporal reference, since a large



number of them is ambiguous and could stand for past as well as future, as was already discussed in the detailed analysis.

**Table 4: The use of verbal mood and temporal reference in Czech *kéž* sentences**

Verbal mood	Temporal reference	No.	%
Present conditional	Present / future	31	62%
	Past	4	8%
Past conditional	Past	7	14%
Indicative	Future	6	12%
Ellipsis ( <i>kéž by</i> )	Unknown	2	4%
Total		50	100%

According to the table, present conditional is by far the most frequently employed mood, most probably due to its use for any temporal reference from the future to the present, to the past, where it replaces the proper form, past conditional. However, only four examples in fact do correspond to a wish referring to the past, which contradicts the theory of present conditional taking over the role of past conditional. Instead, the proper expression of wish referring to the past by the past conditional is used more frequently in our examples, mostly to support archaic and formal character or to achieve maximal faithfulness to the original of the translation. Moreover, it may also be due to the fact that expressions with *kéž* on the whole are starting to show archaicity and therefore collocate well with other archaic forms. Indicative sentences point towards the future and correspond exclusively to sentences introduced by *may*; this phenomenon could be credited to their infrequency and thus slightly archaic nature when compared to the use of conditionals after *kéž*.. As for the ellipses, temporal reference cannot be determined from the sentence itself, but the form *by* reveals them to be ellipses of conditional.

As English counterparts represent a large number of different structures, it would be desirable to observe the use of tense or other grammatical means which convey the time reference of the wish.

**Table 5: The use of tense (or other grammatical means) and temporal reference in English counterparts of Czech *kež* sentences**

Verbal tense	Temporal reference	No.	%
Modal verbs	Present / future	14	28%
	Future ( <i>May</i> sentences)	8	16%
	Past	5	10%
Preterite	Present	16	32%
Pluperfect	Past	6	12%
Subjunctive	Future	1	2%
Total		50	100%

While the Czech table shows the language to employ present conditional to convey time reference in majority of the sentences, English uses modal verbs for the same purpose. Both of them have the same quality of being able to express more than one time reference by a single form and both are thus frequently ambiguous. While the majority of modal verbs in English optative structures serve as ambiguous present/future markers due to their “abnormal time reference” (Quirk et al., 1985: 128) or a clearer future (or from-now-on timespan) markers as it is in the case of sentences introduced by *may*, a small percentage is followed by past infinitive and thus denotes a wish referring to the past. This construction is typically employed to express regret over the past. Preterite is the second most frequent tense among the examples and is used for wishes concerning the present. Considerably less frequent is the occurrence of pluperfect, a marker of a wish referring to the past, possibly because it is not the only means of doing so. Finally, a subjunctive form appears once to mark a wish towards the future.

## 4.2 Czech optative sentences introduced by *at'*

In the second part of the analysis Czech optative sentences introduced by *at'* will be analysed together with their English translation counterparts. Due to the rather homogenous character of sentences with *at'*, which always appear in indicative and thus express a wish referring to the future, we will focus less on the Czech part and temporal reference than we did in the previous analysis. The following table illustrates English counterparts grouped according to their grammatical structures:

**Table 6: Counterparts to Czech optative sentences introduced by *at'***

Counterparts to Czech optative sentences introduced by <i>at'</i>	No.	%
Sentences introduced by <i>may</i>	18	36%
Subjunctive	15	30%
Formulae	7	14%
Verbless sentences	4	8%
Imperative	3	6%
Sentences introduced by <i>I wish</i>	2	4%
Modal idiom	1	2%
Total	50	100%

### 4.2.1 Sentences introduced by *may*

Unlike with counterparts to sentences introduced by *kéž*, we find no unequivocally predominant structure in this survey as the two most frequent ones are separated by three occurrences only. Nevertheless, the prevailing type of counterpart is sentence introduced by *may*, which ranks third among counterparts to *kéž* sentences. Since the construction is a rather formal and archaic one, it prompts us to examine the source of the sentences and its style.

When looking at the source, we may find several pieces of evidence supporting the theory of archaicity and formality. Out of the eighteen examples, five sentences are taken

from fairytales (example 31) and four from a fantasy series (example 32); therefore in half of the cases the usage of *may* is prompted by the need of archaic and “magical” language.

- (31) „*At' se z moci mých peříček mosaz **zaleskne** a prádlo vypere, vyválí, poskládá a uklidí k paniččině spokojenosti.*“

*“By virtue of my three feathers **may** the copper **be lit**, and the clothes washed, and mangled, and folded, and put away to the missus's satisfaction.”*

- (32) *At' vám nikdy **nevytínají** vousy!*

***May** your beards **never grow thin!***

In addition, among the remaining nine sentences we discover four which are referring to God or Gods, higher entities whose importance prompts the speaker to use polite formal language.

- (33) *At' dá Bůh a **přinesou** ti štěstí!*

***May God send** you blessing and profit!*

- (34) „*At' mu bohové **darují** dlouhý život,*“ přizvukoval Pilát, „*a obecný mír!*“

*‘**May the gods send** him long life!’ Pilate said fervently, ‘And universal peace!’*

There are three sentences which deserve special attention because of their nature and their status among other optative sentences. It is an occurrence specific for the *at'* construction, which is briefly discussed in chapter 2.1.2.3 – sentences in optative form that serve as expressions of helplessness, indignation or surprise and are considered unrealizable by Daneš et al.. The three examples appear in two forms – two on their own and the third one as a part of conditional sentence where the condition under which the “wish” should come true is given – typically something the speaker does not expect to occur.

- (35) *At' **mne stáhnou z kůže!**“ řekl Mořský Čaroděj, a pak hleděli všichni na Kotíka, jako by asi hleděla společnost ospalých pánů na hošíka.*

***May I be - - skinned!**” said Sea Vitch, and they all looked at Kotick as you can fancy a club full of drowsy old gentlemen would look at a little boy.*

- (36) *At' **mne spráskají** mými vlastními sedlovými řetězy,*“ řekl Billy.

***May I be flogged** with my own pad-chains!*

- (37) *At' mě oběsí v tropech na první liáně, jestli kdy na nějakém plese hrál takovýhle orchestr!*

*May I be hung from a liana in the tropical forest if any ball has ever had an orchestra like this!*

As far as the form is concerned, Czech sentences contain verbs in present form of indicative and thus all express a wish towards the future or the timespan from now on. Their English counterparts also have very regular structure with the exception of added adverb at the beginning of the sentence:

- (38) *At' vám dlouho slouží, paní moje, paní moje,*  
*Long may you wear them, my lady, my lady,*

#### 4.2.2 Subjunctive

As the second most frequent counterpart we discover subjunctive, another archaic structure – even more so than *may*. As the theoretical part already discussed, subjunctive is a structure nowadays restricted mainly to fixed expressions. Yet, it is quite surprising that twelve out of fifteen total occurrences of subjunctive is one and the same phrase – *long live*, the counterpart to Czech *at' žij-e/-í*, which seems to be the most frequent phrase used in optative sentences with *at'*. There are in fact sixteen *at'* sentences with the phrase in total, but the remaining four have a different counterpart, which will be discussed in chapter 4.2.4.

- (39) *„At' žijí novomanželé!“*  
*Long live the newly-weds!*

- (40) *At' žijí půlčící!*  
*Long live the Halflings!*

The remaining three examples consist of different expressions; however, two of them address God who is a frequently occurring entity in subjunctive. In Czech only one has God figuring in the expression, while the other one has a frequently used phrase *at' vám to klope*, which freely paraphrases the meaning of the English original.

- (41) *At' mi **Bůh odpustí**, ale vypadala jako Eddie Cantor, jak vždycky kulí oči.*  
*God help me, but she looked for all the world like Eddie Cantor doing that pop-eyed act of his.*
- (42) *„At' vám to klape.“*  
*'God bless,' and with a sudden affectionate impulse got up and kissed Mariette.*

The source of the third sentence is once again fantasy literature and the main purpose of the subjunctive is in this case without doubt to add archaic touch to the language.

- (43) *At' se raduje lesní zeleň, dokud je svět ještě mladý!*  
*Merry be the greenwood, while the world is yet young!*

### 4.2.3 Formulae

Formulae is a class containing some of the most fixed phrases that we use in everyday life in an automatic manner; this causes them to be practically unanalyzable since the original meaning is in most cases greatly altered. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 852), all of the examples would be classified under the type called “expletives” (example 44) with one exception which would qualify as an “expression of anger or dismissal” (example 45). The difference between those two is that while expletives are used as an exclamation to ourselves in order to ventilate our anger or surprise, expressions of anger and dismissal are according to Quirk et al.’s examples directed at another person.

- (44) *At' se propadnu, jestli nemáš pravdu!*  
*Damn me, they are, aren't they?*
- (45) *At' na vás padne smrt a tma!*  
*Curse you and all halflings to death and darkness!*

However, Swan (2005: 567-9) offers a much more detailed classification. The most frequently appearing group is what Swan calls “exclamations of surprise,” under which the example 44 would belong as well as two others:

(46) „*At' sním vlastní lod', jestli ty nejsi ženská!*“

*“I’ll be damned, if you aren’t a woman, I’ll eat my ship plank by plank.”*

(47) „*At' se propadnu na místě!*“

*Karl read it swiftly, then said, ‘Well I’m damned!’*

Other groups have less frequent representation among the examples and these are one occurrence of “exclamation of annoyance” (example 48), two of “violent refusal/rejection/defiance” (example 49) and an “insult”, which is typically recognized based on its imperative use of verb followed by an object towards which the insult is directed (example 45).

(48) „*At' to jde všechno do háje!*“

*Before I knowed it, I was sayin’ out loud, ‘The hell with it!’*

(49) „*At' jdou do hajzlu i s tím svým užíváním!*“ *odsekl a vyrazil z hospody, zuřivě mávaje poloprázdnou pivní sklenicí.*

*“Damn their fun!” he hooted and ran out of the pub furiously waving a nearly empty beer glass.*

As far as Czech sentences are concerned, all of the sentences with formulae counterparts are considered to be a type of unrealizable wishes, three of which were already discovered with *may* counterparts. Once again we are dealing with expressions of surprise and indignation rather than a proper wish, which is in accordance with the definition and use of formulae.

Upon examining their form, we discover that one phrase is clearly favoured and that is *damn* and its different realizations from the verb alone to a full sentences *I’ll be damned*, which occur five times in total. This observation once again proves the usage of formulae as well as their Czech counterparts as fairly fixed phrases and expressions. We can find such homogeneity in Czech sentences as well since in three cases the counterpart to *damn* and its variations is *at' se (na místě) propadnu*, a quite frequent Czech exclamation:

(50) *At' se na místě propadnu, jestli mě tihle pitomci uvidí někdy brečet.*

*Damn if these assholes are gonna see me cry.*

In one of the two remaining sentences a merger of two clauses occurs and therefore the expletive is not fully voiced in Czech (example 46); the last sentence is given different translation due to the presence of object that is different from the speaker (example 49).

As a closing remark it is important to mention that for the first time during the analysis we found a group with clearly observable informal and colloquial language with features such as contractions, which were rather infrequent in the previous examples. The feature should be credited to the informal and casual character of formulae that prompts them to collocate with other informal features.

#### 4.2.4 Verbless sentences

Verbless sentences are one of the less frequent counterparts to Czech optative sentences introduced by *at'* with four occurrences in fifty examples. All of them are without subject and represent counterparts to Czech phrase *at' žij-e/-ete/-ou*, a fixed optative sentence in form of an exclamation. Two of them are similar since they contain the word *cheer* as the core of the sentence, but they are in fact not the same. One of them consists only of the word *cheers* and is followed by the information about drinking from a glass. We can thus deduce that a toast is taking place and in such circumstances *cheers* is considered to be an interjection. The other phrase, however, contains a clearly countable noun *cheers*, for it say *three cheers* and we are therefore dealing with a noun phrase.

(51) „*At' žijete!*“ *řekl a napil se přímo z plechovky.*

*'Cheers' he said, dispensing with a glass.'*

(52) „*At' žije Pipi Dlouhá punčocha!*“ *volal velitel hasičů.*

*'Three cheers for Pippi Longstocking!' cried the head of the fire brigade.*

The third example is a similar case as the second cheer – the word *hurrah* is originally an interjection, but is nominalized in this case since we are metaphorically giving the hurrah to somebody:



- (53) „*At' žije Kamerfield!*“  
*'Hurrah for Camerfield!'*

The last sentence is an adjectival phrase similar to both *cheers* and *hoorah* in the form, but an adjective *good* stands as a head of the phrase. The origin of the sentence is something along the lines of *it is good for*, but is fixed to such a degree that it is considered a kind of idiom nowadays, meaning congratulations or well done.

- (54) „*At' žijou Bralové!*“ *křikl Pipin.*  
*'Good for the Tookes!'* cried Pippin.

#### 4.2.5 Imperative

Another instance of a less frequently employed means of conveying a wish is the imperative sentence. However, the purpose is only optative if there is no real addressee or if the addressee is a higher power or entity towards which we direct our pleas, not actually expecting a fulfillment of the wish, and not a person whom we demand to behave in a certain manner. We are in fact encountering the same issue as was discussed in case of Czech sentences with *at'* (which can also be either imperative or optative) in chapter 2.1.3.

As we are about to find, all of the counterparts to Czech optative sentences are also optative sentences, albeit in the form of imperative. Two of them appear in the periphrastic form and in one case the regular form of imperative is employed. As was expected, in all of them abstract entities are explicitly addressed – *God*, *sadness* and *past* with *suffering* – and as none of these is expected to obey the command, they are proven to be optative sentences expressing the wishes of the speaker.

- (55) *At' smutek nikdy nepatří k mému jménu.*  
*Let sadness never be linked with my name.*
- (56) „*At' shoří náš starý život, at' shoří utrpení.*“  
*'Burn away, past! Burn, suffering!'* cried Margarita.

#### 4.2.6 Sentences introduced by *I wish*

The most frequent counterpart to Czech optative sentences with *kéž* is one of the least frequent counterparts to *at'* sentences, occurring only twice. However, there is a difference to be found between *I wish* sentences corresponding to *kéž* and those corresponding to *at'*, for the ones corresponding to *at'* are not true wishes, but expressions of indignation and surprise. They may even be exaggerated and the spoken wish is typically not expected or desired to be fulfilled.

(57) *At' se na místě propadnu, jestli ještě bolí.*

*I wish I may never stir if it does.*

(58) *At' tu na místě umřu, jestli jsem věděl, co dělám.*

*I wish I may die this minute if I did.*

Moreover, both of the sentences appear as a part of conditional, followed by the condition under which their “wish” should come true. Another particular feature is the use of modal verb *may* that occurs in both cases and marks not only a wish oriented towards the future, but also supports the improbability of the situation actually occurring.

#### 4.2.7 Modal idiom

Lastly, there is a single occurrence of a modal idiom figuring in the table that ought to be presented and examined separately. It is the idiom *had better*, composed of an auxiliary verb + *better* followed by an infinitive. It has a “meaning of ‘advisability’, similar to the obligational meaning of *ought* and *should*” (Quirk et al., 1985: 142) – in this case the advisability applies to the speaker himself who thinks that what is about to happen ought to be good or else he would waste his time or other similar meaning. The wish also holds an undertone of irritation.

According to Swan (2005: 203), *had better* is a very strong expression which refers to the “immediate future” and is in fact “more urgent than *should* or *ought*.” Swan also mentions

that “*had* is sometimes dropped in very informal speech,” which is obviously the case of our example:

(59) *At’ to raději stojí za to.*

*This better be good.*

#### 4.2.8 Final overview and comparison

Since all of the Czech sentences introduced by *at’* as well as all of their counterparts are without exception oriented towards the future, there is no need or possibility for an analysis similar to that of *kéž*. However, that does not mean we cannot find a pattern amongst English counterparts to *at’* sentences. We found the most frequent to be sentences introduced by *may*, which occur mainly in the case of archaic language in fantasy or fairytale literature. The second most frequent subjunctive also serves as a means of conveying archaic character, but is much more frequently used in fixed expressions. The same can be said about verbless sentences. These sentences – save of a few exceptions in form of a special type of wishes concerning sentences with *may* – ought to be considered realizable as they point towards the future and seem to be genuine wishes.

On the other hand, we also encountered sentences that are not to be considered wishes in the true sense, but rather expressions frequently addressed to ourselves or no one in particular through which we ventilate our feelings of surprise, indignation or helplessness. Together with a few examples encountered among *may* sentences, imperative constructions, formulae and rare sentences introduced by *I wish* belong to this group. Formulae are also typical for their fixed forms similar to subjunctive or some of the verbless sentences.

## 5 Conclusion

The aim of the thesis was to analyze Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* and *at'* and their English counterparts. The two types of sentences differ in the use of mood, *at'* being followed by indicative, while *kéž* may be followed by indicative as well as present or past conditional. The primary focus was on the English counterparts with the goal to describe the differences between the counterparts to the two sentence types; if possible, the present thesis also endeavoured to find an explanation and reveal the features upon which the differences depend on. In both cases the English counterparts were classed into categories based on their grammatical structure. *Kéž* sentences were then examined group by group with the time reference of the wish being the main focus; however, in several cases the style of the text and its influence on the chosen structure was taken into consideration as well. Sentences introduced by *at'* did not differ in their time reference and thus this feature did not play the decisive role. In this case the style of the text and fixity of the phrases were the main concerns. Additionally, a special group of unrealizable wishes proved to have a certain influence upon the grammatical structure of the counterparts.

Counterparts to sentences introduced by *kéž* were shown to generally be the rather common ways of conveying a wish. The analysis discovered that sentences introduced by *I wish* occur most frequently (44%) with *if only* sentences following (24%), both of which correspond to Czech sentences in conditional. Moreover, both of them seem to prefer either preterite or modal verbs with pluperfect used considerably less and thus there seems to be no visible difference between the two structures. The appearance of *may* is rarer and mostly corresponds to Czech sentences in indicative since it may only convey wishes towards the future or timespan from now on. However, two present conditionals, which may also serve as means of representing a wish referring to the future, appear as a Czech counterpart to *may* as well. As the theoretical part suggested, *I hope* was indeed found as a frequent variant of

expressing a wish towards the future that is likely to happen, replacing *I wish* in these instances. Among the other extremely rare counterparts were the structure *(I) would that*, subjunctive and a modal idiom. *(I) would that* was revealed to be indeed extremely archaic alternative of *I wish*, also corresponding to Czech conditional constructions, but in a different type of text. Both of the examples came from a fantasy book, which was deduced as the main reason for the usage of the structure. The sole example of subjunctive, on the other hand, was used based on fixity of the phrase and the presence of typical subjunctive subject – *heaven*.

Among counterparts to sentences introduced by *at'* more unconventional means of conveying a wish were found, while sentences introduced by *if only* does not occur at all and those introduced by *I wish* represent a very small percentage. Sentences introduced by *may* were determined as the most frequent counterpart (36%) with subjunctive closely behind (30%). *May* often occurred in fantasy literature and fairytales or speeches concerning God or other higher powers and therefore proved to be used as a means through which archaic touch is added to the speech or as a polite way to speak towards entities commanding respect. A smaller portion of these sentences also constitutes an unrealizable type of wish which is not expected to be fulfilled, but rather serves as a means of expressing one's attitude, mostly surprise or indignation. According to the analysis, subjunctive seems to be dependent on the fixity of the phrase; alternatively, similar conditions that call for the use of *may* are also applicable to subjunctive, i.e. text from a fantasy literature or a polite form of speech. Among the less ordinary means of expressing a wish are formulae and verbless sentences, both of which are represented by several sentences and constitute mostly fixed phrases. However, the examples of formulae also appeared as unrealizable wishes expressing surprise and anger. Imperative together with sentences introduced by *I wish* occur only rarely and both also convey unrealizable wishes expressing attitude. This is not the only factor differentiating *I wish* as counterparts of *kéž* and those corresponding to *at'* sentences; in case of *at'* sentences

introduced by *I wish* the construction was in both cases a part of conditional, which never occurred in the counterparts of *kéž*. Finally, as it happened with counterparts to sentences with *kéž*, one modal idiom was found among the examples.

As far as the Czech sentences are concerned, past conditional does not seem to be used as scarcely as the theoretical part predicts; however, we must take into consideration that in most cases we were dealing with older literature or genres supporting archaic language and therefore the appearance of past conditional is not that surprising. It was also revealed that *at'* sentences are very often restricted to fixed phrases amongst which the most popular one by far is *at' žijí*, occurring in sixteen out of fifty cases. Other popular phrases seem to be expletives, but these are more colourful in the Czech language, while in English they rather tend to be fixed and repeat themselves in more or less the same form. Comparing the two idioms, *would rather* as a counterpart to *kéž* and *had better* as a counterpart to *at'*, together with the different usage of mood in Czech, we may make a conclusion about the force of the wishes. *Kéž*, due to its frequent occurrence with conditionals (70%), seems to be a much weaker wish, as can be seen on the idiom as well, which expresses a preference. On the other hand, the idiom *had better* conveys a strong suggestion, which is further supported by the invariable use of indicative *it* sentences introduced by *at'* as well as a number of short exclamative forms as their counterparts.

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Accessible at: <http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz/intercorp/>

## 7 Resumé

Tato práce se zabývá českými pracími větami uvozenými částicemi *kéž* a *at'* a jejich anglickými překladovými ekvivalenty. Tyto dva typy vět patří mezi strukturně nejtypičtější prací věty v českém jazyce, jejich rysy se však znatelně liší. Věty uvozené *kéž* mohou obsahovat přítomný či minulý kondicionál, ale taky indikativ, z nichž se každý pojí s jiným časovým odkazem přání, zatímco věty uvozené *at'* užívají pouze indikativ. Je pravděpodobné, že tento rozdíl způsobí, že se každá z vět bude pojít s jinými typy překladových ekvivalentů nebo že jeden typ překladových ekvivalentů bude užíván častěji s jedním typem vět než s druhým.

Práce je rozdělena na několik částí. Krátký úvod následuje teoretická část, která se zabývá problémem kategorizace českých i anglických pracích vět, rozdíly mezi českými větami s *kéž* a *at'* a jednotlivými způsoby, které mohou sloužit k vyjádření přání v angličtině. V této souvislosti je zmíněna též problematika ilokační síly, která je spojícím prvkem mezi různými gramatickými konstrukcemi, které mohou být užity k vyjádření přání. Rozdíl mezi uskutečnitelným a neuskutečnitelným přání je také jedním z předmětů zkoumání, jelikož úzce souvisí s časovým odkazem přání a tudíž se předpokládá, že může ovlivňovat volbu příslušného překladového ekvivalentu. Práce vychází především z *Průruční mluvnice češtiny* a *Skladby češtiny* od M. Grepla a kol., pro anglickou část jsou nejpodstatnější *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* od L. Duškové a kol., gramatika R. Huddlestona a G. K. Pulluma a kol. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* a kniha M. Swana *Practical English Usage*.

Pro empirickou část bylo z česko-anglického korpusu InterCorp, který je zprostředkován Českým národním korpusem, vyextrahováno 100 příkladů českých pracích vět – 50 vět uvozených *kéž* a 50 uvozených *at'* – a jejich anglických překladových protějšků. Způsob jejich extrakce a výběru je charakterizován v krátké části zabývající se metodou



a materiálem, kde je popsána práce s korpusem stejně jako manuální třídění problematických vět. Dále je zde také popsána metoda a hlavní kritéria, podle kterých jsou data v praktické části zkoumána.

Samotná analýza se dělí na dvě části zabývající se větami uvozenými *kéž* a těmi uvozenými *at'* a jejich příslušnými překladovými protějšky. V obou případech jsou překladové protějšky rozděleny podle jejich gramatické podoby a jsou určeny ty nejčastější, které jsou poté rozebírány od nejfrekventovanějších po méně časté. V případě vět uvozených *kéž* je z důvodu možného použití více slovesných způsobů hlavním bodem analýzy časová orientace přání spojená s jeho realizovatelností. V některých případech je brán ohled také na styl textu a jeho vliv na užití příslušných optativních struktur. V případě vět uvozených *at'* není čas zásadním problémem, jelikož jsou všechna přání uvozená *at'* směřována do budoucnosti. V tomto případě je zkoumán typ textu, ustálenost frází či zvláštní skupina nesplnitelných přání, která jsou ve skutečnosti projevy překvapení nebo zlosti. Analýza je hojně ilustrovaná na příkladech, které jsou uváděny v průběhu celé praktické části.

Poslední kapitola se věnuje závěru, který jednak shrnuje výsledky pozorování a jednak porovnává získaná data mezi sebou a případně také s informacemi uvedenými v teoretické části. V případě přacíh vět uvozených *kéž* se ukázalo, že jejich hlavním překladovým protějškem je s významnou převahou věta uvozená *I wish* (44%). Druhá nejčtenější anglická optativní struktura odpovídající tomuto druhu věty je uvozená *if only* (24%). Obě jsou užity jako překladové protějšky pouze vět obsahujících kondicionál a v obou je nejčastěji použit préterit nebo modální sloveso (s nepatrným procentuálním rozdílem) a tudíž docházíme k závěru, že mezi těmito větami jako překladovými protějšky není žádný viditelný rozdíl. Méně často nacházíme i ekvivalent v podobě věty uvozené *may*, která vždy vyjadřuje přání směřující do budoucna a většinou odpovídá českému indikativu, ale objevují se i příklady s kondicionálem. Věty uvozené *I hope* se ukazují, jak předpovídá teoretická část, jako časté

substituce za věty s *I wish* v případě, že jde o přání budoucí, které se pravděpodobně splní. Vzácně se pak objevují v textech archaického rázu struktury *(I) would that*, v ustáleném spojení jsme našli konjunktiv a našel se i jeden případ modálního idiomu.

Překládové protějšky vět uvozených částicí *at'* se značně liší. Nejen že zde vůbec nefigurují věty uvozené *if only* a ty uvozené *I wish* jsou vzácné, ale také se objevuje mnoho méně konvenčních způsobů vyjádření přání, jako jsou jednočlenné věty nebo tzv. formule. Nejčastějšími ekvivalenty se ukázaly archaické a formální věty uvozené *may* (36%), které byly nalezeny v textech archaického rázu jako je fantazy literatura či pohádky nebo v promluvě k vyšším bytostem, jako například bohům. Nízké procento těchto vět se také ukázalo být nepravými přáními vyjadřujícími rozhořčení nebo překvapení. Druhý nejčastější ekvivalent v podobě konjunktivu (30%) byl téměř ve všech případech závislý na ustálenosti fráze – především fráze *at' žije*, která se často opakovala a prokázala se tak jako nejčastější práci věta s *at'* v češtině. V několika případech byl konjunktiv použit stejně jako v případě *may* jako prvek dodávající mluvě archaický či formální nádech. Formule a jednočlenné věty se objevovaly méně často, ale přesto byly svým výskytem významné. Obě struktury se projevily nejčastěji jako překládové protějšky ustálených spojení, neboť taková je jejich funkce i v angličtině. Navíc se formule ukázaly také být neuskutečnitelnými nepravými přáními, která slouží k vyjádření překvapení či zlosti, stejně jako tomu bylo u všech případů ještě vzácnějšího imperativu a vět uvozených *I wish*. Stejně jako v případě překládových protějšků vět uvozených *kéž* se mezi příklady objevuje i jeden modální idiom.

## 8 Appendix

**Appendix table 1:** Czech optative sentences introduced by *kéž* with their English translation counterparts

No.	Source	CZ	EN
1	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	Kéž bych seděl doma ve své útulné noře u krbu a kéž by čajník právě začínal zpívat!	I wish I was at home in my nice hole by the fire, with the kettle just beginning to sing!
2	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	Kéž bych byl zpátky ve své hobití noře u vlastního teplého krbu a svítící lampy!	I wish I was back in my hobbit-hole by my own warm fireside with the lamp shining!
3	<i>Doyle, A. C. – Poslední poklona</i>	Kéž bych ho mohla ponížít!	If I could pull him down!
4	<i>Lorenz, K. – Takzvané zlo</i>	Kéž by tomu tak bylo i nadále!	May it continue to do so!
5	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Společenstvo Prstenu</i>	Kéž by tady byl Gandalf!	Would that Gandalf were here!
6	<i>Rowling, J.K. – Harry Potter a relikvie smrti</i>	Kéž by byl mohl zemřít onoho letního večera, kdy nadobro odešel z domu číslo čtyři v Zobí ulici a kdy ho zachránila hůlka s perem ušlechtilého fénixe!	If he could only have died on that summer's night when he had left number four, Privet Drive, for the last time, when the noble phoenix feather wand had saved him!
7	<i>Franková, A. – Deník Anny Frankové</i>	Kéž by všechn ten svrab už pominul!	If only the whole stinking mess were over!
8	<i>Austenová, J. – Pýcha a předsudek</i>	Kéž by se - v zájmu její rodiny - dalo říct, že když se splnilo její vroucí přání....	I wish I could say, for the sake of her family, that the accomplishment of her earnest desire...
9	<i>Lagerlöf, S. – Podivuhodná cesta Nilse Holgerssona Švédskem</i>	„Kéž bych ji byl radši nepotkal!“ říkal si.	‘I would rather not have seen her,’ he said to himself.
10	<i>Lagerlöf, S. – Podivuhodná cesta Nilse Holgerssona Švédskem</i>	„Kéž by to dobře dopadlo!“ přála si Jemnopérka.	“Oh, I hope he'll succeed!” said Dunfin.
11	<i>Rowling, J.K. – Harry Potter a relikvie smrti</i>	Kéž by byl mohl zemřít jako Hedvika, tak rychle, že by si to ani nestačil uvědomit.	If he could only have died like Hedwig, so quickly he would not have known it had happened!
12	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Návrat krále</i>	Kéž bych tu býval dřív!	Would that I could have been here sooner!

No.	Source	CZ	EN
13	<i>Mandělštamová, N. J. – Dvě knihy vzpomínek</i>	Kéž bych umřela ve svém vlastním - družstevním a milovaném - bytě!	I only hope I die in my own precious little cooperative apartment.
14	<i>Hemingway, E. – Stařec a moře</i>	Kéž by to tak byl sen, kéž bych byl tu rybu nikdy neulovil a kéž bych ležel sám doma v posteli na novinách!	I wish it had been a dream now and that I had never hooked the fish and was alone in bed on the newspapers.
15	<i>Fieldingová, J. - Panenka</i>	Kéž bych mohla.	Wish I could.
16	<i>Collodi, C.L. – Pinocchiova dobrodružství</i>	Kéž by to ten ubohý kos nikdy neřekl!	Poor little Blackbird! If he had only kept his words to himself!
17	<i>Harris, T. – Mlčení jehňátek</i>	Kéž by.	I wish there were.
18	<i>Woolfová, V. – Strašidelný dům</i>	Kéž bych je dokázala sestavit!	I wish I could piece them together!
19	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	Kéž se váš stín nikdy neumenší (to by se vám kradlo moc snadno)!	May your shadow never grow less (or stealing would be too easy).
20	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Společenstvo Prstenu</i>	Kéž vám hvězdy osvěcují tvář!	May the stars shine upon your faces!
21	<i>Mandělštamová, N. J. – Dvě knihy vzpomínek</i>	Kéž bych už nespatriła ještě vidoucímá pozemskýmá očima, co se možná blíží.	But whatever the future holds, I only hope I do not live to see it with these mortal eyes.
22	<i>Franková, A. – Deník Anny Frankové</i>	Kéž by tak přišel "on", aby mě utěšil.	Oh, if only "he" had come to comfort me.
23	<i>Austenová, J. – Pýcha a předsudek</i>	Kéž bys i ty poznala takové blaho!	If I could but see you as happy!
24	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Návrat krále</i>	Kéž je tvůj osud jiný než můj a tvůj poklad s tebou zůstane až do konce!	May your doom be other than mine, and your treasure remain with you to the end!
25	<i>Wells, H.G. - Neviditelný</i>	Kéž by nám nebe seslalo studené noci a déšť!	Heaven send us cold nights and rain!
26	<i>Rowling, J.K. – Harry Potter a relikvie smrti</i>	„Kéž bych... kéž bych byl mrtvý já...“	“I wish... I wish I were dead...”
27	<i>Banks, I. – Píseň kamene</i>	Kéž bych já sám mohl utržit a snášet ránu, kterou jsem tak neopatrně zavinil.	I wish I could take and suffer the wound I so carelessly inflicted.
28	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	Kéž bych byl nikdy nevyslovil slova o jezdcí na soudku,	I wish to goodness I had never said that about Barrel-rider,
29	<i>Larsson, S. – Muži, kteří nenávidí ženy</i>	Kéž by za mnou tehdy přišla.	If only she had come to me.

No.	Source	CZ	EN
30	Clarke, A. C. – <i>Setkání s Rámou</i>	„Kéž bych tak měla sonar,“ řekla.	‘I wish we had some soundings,’ she said.
31	Nabokov, V. – <i>Lolita</i>	Kéž bych se mohl odchýlit a povědět vám víc o pavor nocturnus, který mě začal pekelně trýznit poté, co jsem jako chlapec, čtoucí, co mi přišlo pod ruku, narazil na takový nahodilý pojem jako peine forte et dure (jaký Géníus Bolesti ho musel vymyslet!) nebo strastiplná, záhadná, zrádná slova "trauma", "traumatický případ" nebo "traverza"!	I wish I might digress and tell you more of the PAVOR NOCTURNUS that would rack me at night hideously after a chance term had struck me in the random readings of my boyhood, such as PEINE FORTE ET DURE (what a Genius of Pain must have invented that!) or the dreadful, mysterious, insidious words "trauma," "traumatic event," and "transom."
32	Hemingway, E. – <i>Stařec a moře</i>	„Kéž by teď chlapec byl se mnou!“ řekl nahlas, usadil se a opřel se o skruž paloubky na přídi a cítil skrze šňůru sílu obrovské ryby, napřenu k neznámému cíli, pro který se ryba rozhodla.	“I wish the boy was here,” he said aloud and settled himself against the rounded planks of the bow and felt the strength of the great fish through the line he held across his shoulders moving steadily toward whatever he had chosen.
33	Tolkien, J.R.R. – <i>Návrat krále</i>	„Kéž přineseš dobrou radu Denethorovi v jeho nouzi i nám všem, Mithrandire!“ zvolal Ingold.	‘May you bring good counsel to Denethor in his need, and to us all, Mithrandir!’ Ingold cried.
34	Brown, S.L. – <i>Chuť lásky</i>	„Kéž by, moje milá.“	“I wish I were, my dear.”
35	Pavič, M. – <i>Chazarský slovník</i>	Kéž bych byl nezaspíval jedinou píseň, mohl jsem s ostatními tuláky a sebrankou přijít do ráje.	More than anything else I wish I had never sung a single song; then, like other lowlife and scum, I would have entered paradise!
36	McCarthy, T. – <i>C</i>	„Kéž by to tak byla pravda,“ povzdechne si smutně Widsun.	“If only that were true,” sighs Widsun dolefully.
37	Austenová, J. – <i>Pýcha a předsudek</i>	Kéž by se našel druhý takový muž pro tebe!	If there were but such another man for you!
38	Grisham, J. – <i>Bratrstvo</i>	Kéž by to s Rusy bylo tak snadné.	He wished the Russians were so easy.
39	Tolkien, J.R.R. – <i>Hobit</i>	„Kéž bychom tady nahoře mohli mít oheň, jako mají dole v táboře!“	“I wish we could have a fire up here as they have in the camp!”
40	Siddons, A.R. – <i>Bezpečné výšiny</i>	„Kéž by tak mohla přijet na svatbu!“ zatoužila jsem.	“I wish she could have been here,” I said, the old familiar fear starting up in the pit of my stomach.

No.	Source	CZ	EN
41	<i>Doyle, A.C. – Poslední poklona</i>	„Kéž bych ho mohla strhnout do propasti, kam on sám uvrhl tolik obětí!“	“Oh, if I could only pull him into the pit where he has pushed so many!”
42	<i>Andrić, I. – Travnická kronika</i>	„Kéž Všemohoucí osvětluje jeho hrob!“, tlustá vosková svíce na vysokém dřevěném svícnu, která ve dne v noci hoří nad temným hrobem v bezmocném úsilí, aby dosáhla toho, oč tento nápis prosí Boha a co Bůh, jak se zdá, nechce splnit.	„May the Almighty illuminate his grave!“ embroidered on it ; the thick wax candle in its tall wooden holder burning day and night above the dark grave, in a powerless effort to achieve what that inscription asked of God, and which God, it seemed, was not going to fulfill; about the Pasha who had gained a high position while still a young man and had happened to come to his native land to die.
43	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Dvě věže</i>	Kéž ho sami Valar odvrátí!	May the Valar turn him aside!
44	<i>Austenová, J. – Pýcha a předsudek</i>	Kéž by tvůj dům, Charlesi, až si ho postavíš, byl alespoň zpola tak rozkošný jako Pemberley!	Charles, when you build your house, I wish it may be half as delightful as Pemberley.
45	<i>Škvorecký, J. – Příběh inženýra lidských duší</i>	Kéž by to už mohlo být brzy!	I only hope it may be soon.
46	<i>Lindseyová, J. – Zamilovaný ničema</i>	Kéž by bylo víc žen, které by uvažovaly jako vy.	Good God, I wish more women thought like that.
47	<i>Franková, A. – Deník Anny Frankové</i>	Kéž by všechn ten svrab už pominul!	If only the whole stinking mess were over!
48	<i>Lorenz, K. – Takzvané zlo</i>	Kéž by našel následovníky v co největším měřítku!	May this attempt find imitators on a grand scale!
49	<i>Siddons, A.R. – Bezpečné výšiny</i>	Kéž by neměl pocit, že se musí před podobnou situací schovat!	I wish he didn't feel he had to hide from all this.
50	<i>Hailey, A. – Konečná diagnóza</i>	Kéž by sešitím všechno skončilo!	She was thinking: If only this were all, how simple everything would be.

**Appendix table 2:** Czech optative sentences introduced by *at'* with their English translation counterparts

No.	Source	CZ	EN
1	<i>Kiš, D. – Hrobka pro Borise Davidoviče</i>	„At' žijí novomanželé!“	“Long live the newly-weds!”
2	<i>Lindseyová, J. – Zamilovaný ničema</i>	„At' sním vlastní loď, jestli ty nejsi ženská!“	“I'll be damned, if you aren't a woman, I'll eat my ship plank by plank.”
3	<i>Harris, T. – Mlčení jehňátek</i>	At' se na místě propadnu, jestli mě tihle pitomci uvidí někdy brečet.	Damn if these assholes are gonna see me cry.
4	<i>anonym – Anglické pohádky</i>	„At' se z moci mých peříček šaty nadouvají a ve větru mrskají až do rána a at' je Matouš sebrat nemůže, ani ruce od nich odtrhnout.“	“By virtue of my three feathers may the clothes slash and blow about till morning, and may William not be able to take his hand from them nor yet to gather them up.”
5	<i>Andrić, I. – Travnická kronika</i>	„Kéž Všemohoucí osvětluje jeho hrob!“, tlustá vosková svíce na vysokém dřevěném svícnu, která ve dne v noci hoří nad temným hrobem v bezmocném úsilí, aby dosáhla toho, oč tento nápis prosí Boha a co Bůh, jak se zdá, nechce splnit.	‘May God grant you every joy in your children,’ he said to Daville as he took his leave.
6	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	At' se raduje lesní zeleň, dokud je svět ještě mladý!	Merry be the greenwood, while the world is yet young!
7	<i>Adams, D. – Stopařův průvodce Galaxií</i>	„At' jdou do hajzlu i s tím svým užíváním!“ odsekl a vyrazil z hospody, zuřivě mávaje poloprázdnou pivní sklenicí.	“Damn their fun!” he hooted and ran out of the pub furiously waving a nearly empty beer glass.
8	<i>Kundera, M. – Žert</i>	At' smutek nikdy nepatří k mému jménu.	Let sadness never be linked with my name.
9	<i>anonym – Anglické pohádky</i>	„At' z moci mých peříček okenice bouchají a skřípají až do rána a Jan at' je zavřít nemůže, ani ruce od nich odtrhnout.“	“By virtue of my three feathers may the shutters slash and bang till morning, and John not be able to fasten them nor yet to get his fingers free from them.”
10	<i>Orwell, G. – Farma zvířat</i>	Boxer a Lupina vždy nesli roztažený transparent zelené barvy, na kterém bylo kopyto a roh, s nápisem „At' žije soudruh Napoleon!“	Boxer and Clover always carried between them a green banner marked with the hoof and the horn and the caption, “Long live Comrade Napoleon!”
11	<i>Lindseyová, J. – Zamilovaný ničema</i>	At' se propadnu, jestli nemáš pravdu!	Damn me, they are, aren't they?

No.	Source	CZ	EN
12	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Návrat krále</i>	At' žijí půlčici!	Long live the Halflings!
13	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	„At' žije Lučištník, pryč s lakomými pracháči!“ až se to volání rozlehlo ozvěnou po celém pobřeží.	„Up the Bowman, and down with Moneybags,” till the clamour echoed along the shore.
14	<i>Brown, D. – Šifra mistra Leonarda</i>	At' to raději stojí za to.	This better be good.
15	<i>Clarke, A.C. – Setkání s Rámou</i>	„At' se propadnu na místě!“	Karl read it swiftly, then said, ‘Well I’m damned!’
16	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	At' nikdy nevybledne vaše památka!	May your memory never fade!
17	<i>Lindgrenová, A. – Pipi Dlouhá punčocha</i>	„At' žije Pipi Dlouhá punčocha!“ volal velitel hasičů.	‘Three cheers for Pippi Longstocking!’ cried the head of the fire brigade.
18	<i>Andrić, I. – Travnická kronika</i>	„At' žije král!“ odpovídal jasným hlasem.	The King, himself deeply moved, ordered the coach to slow down to a walk, removed his large hat with a sweeping movement and in response to the chorus of Long live the King! kept replying in a clear voice.
19	<i>Wells, H. G. - Neviditelný</i>	„At' se propadnu!“ řekl.	‘I’m dashed!’ he said.
20	<i>Kipling, R. – Knihy džunglí</i>	„At' mne stáhnou z kůže!“ řekl Mořský Čaroděj, a pak hleděli všichni na Kotíka, jako by asi hleděla společnost ospalých pánů na hošíka.	‘May I be - - skinned !’ said Sea Vitch, and they all looked at Kotick as you can fancy a club full of drowsy old gentlemen would look at a little boy.
21	<i>Bulgakov, M. – Mistr a Markétka</i>	„At' mu bohové darují dlouhý život,“ přizvukoval Pilát, „a obecný mír!“	‘May the gods send him long life!’ Pilate said fervently, ‘And universal peace!’
22	<i>Francis, D. – Chladná zrada</i>	„At' žijete!“ řekl a napil se přímo z plechovky.	‘Cheers’ he said, dispensing with a glass.
23	<i>Ostrovskij, N.A. – Jak se kalila ocel</i>	„At' žijí soudruzi!“	‘Long live the comrades!’
24	<i>Twain, M. – Dobrodružství Toma Sawyera</i>	At' se na místě propadnu, jestli ještě bolí.	I wish I may never stir if it does.
25	<i>anonym – Anglické pohádky</i>	„At' to tam z moci mých peříček crčí proudem a teče okolo a at' Kuba nemůže brandy ani nalít, ani ruce od něj odtrhnout až do rána.“	‘By virtue of my three feathers may there be slashing and spilling, and James not be able to pour the brandy straight nor yet to take his hand from it until morning.’



No.	Source	CZ	EN
26	<i>anonym – Anglické pohádky</i>	At' vám dlouho slouží, paní moje, paní moje ,	Long may you wear them, my lady, my lady,
27	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Společenstvo Prstenu</i>	At' mi Elrond a ostatní prominou, že bylo tak dlouhé.	May Elrond and the others forgive the length of it.
28	<i>Palahniuk, C. – Zalknutí</i>	At' Bůh dokáže, že nemám pravdu.	Let God prove me wrong.
29	<i>Bulgakov, M. – Mistr a Markétka</i>	„At' shoří náš starý život , at' shoří utrpení!“ křičela Markéta.	‘Burn away, past! Burn, suffering!’ cried Margarita.
30	<i>Verne, J. – Cesta kolem světa za osmdesát dní</i>	„At' žije Kamerfield!“	“Hurrah for Camerfield!”
31	<i>Kipling, R. – Knihy džunglí</i>	„At' mne spráskají mými vlastními sedlovými řetězy,“ řekl Billy.	“May I be flogged with my own pad-chains!”
32	<i>Hašek, J. – Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války</i>	„At' žije, pánové, císař František Josef I.“	“Gentlemen, long live the Emperor! Franz Josef the First!”
33	<i>Bates, H.E. – Poupata odkvétají v máji</i>	„At' vám to klope.“	‘God bless,’ and with a sudden affectionate impulse got up and kissed Mariette.
34	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	At' vám nikdy nevyhlínají vousy!	May your beards never grow thin!
35	<i>Andrić, I. – Travnická kronika</i>	„At' žije můj národ!“	‘Long live my people!’
36	<i>anonym – Anglické pohádky</i>	„At' se z moci mých peříček mosaz zaleskne a prádlo vypere, vyválí, poskládá a uklidí k paniččině spokojenosti.“	“By virtue of my three feathers may the copper be lit, and the clothes washed, and mangled, and folded, and put away to the missus’s satisfaction.”
37	<i>Andrić, I. – Most na Drině</i>	„At' žije Jeho Veličenstvo, náš císař!“	‘Long live His Majesty the Emperor!’
38	<i>King, S. – Carrie</i>	At' mi Bůh odpustí, ale vypadala jako Eddie Cantor, jak vždycky kulí oči.	God help me, but she looked for all the world like Eddie Cantor doing that pop-eyed act of his.
39	<i>Bulgakov, M. – Mistr a Markétka</i>	At' mě oběsí v tropech na první liáně, jestli kdy na nějakém plese hrál takovýhle orchestr!	May I be hung from a liana in the tropical forest if any ball has ever had an orchestra like this.
40	<i>Hašek, J. – Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války</i>	„At' žije Volná myšlenka!“	‘Long live Free Thought!’

No.	Source	CZ	EN
41	<i>Škvorecký, J. – Příběh inženýra lidských duší</i>	„Ať nám slouží!“	“Long may it thrive.”
42	<i>Kiš, D. – Encyklopedie mrtvých</i>	„Ať vás bohové uchrání,“ píše kterýsi pohan, „jejich zlého jazyka a jejich kleteb!“	“May the gods keep you,” a pagan wrote, “from their evil tongues and imprecations.”
43	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Návrat krále</i>	„Ať žijou Bralové!“ křikl Pipin.	‘Good for the Tooks!’ cried Pippin.
44	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Společenstvo prstenu</i>	Ať na vás padne smrt a tma!	Curse you and all halflings to death and darkness!
45	<i>Andrić, I. – Most na Drině</i>	„Ať žije!“ vykřikl dlouhán Ferhat, který rozsvěcuje obecní lucerny, jako na objednávku.	‘Long life,’ shouted tall Ferhat, the municipal lamplighter, as if by order.
46	<i>Steinbeck, J. – Hrozny hněvu</i>	„Ať to jde všechno do háje.“	Before I knowed it, I was sayin’ out loud, ‘The hell with it!’
47	<i>Ostrovskij, N.A. – Jak se kalila ocel</i>	„Ať žije soudruh!“	He yelled ‘Long live comrades!’
48	<i>Kiš, D. – Hrobka pro Borise Davidoviče</i>	Ať žije ruské námořnictvo!	Long live the Red fleet!
49	<i>Tolkien, J.R.R. – Hobit</i>	Ať mu vypadají vousy!	May his beard wither!
50	<i>Twain, M. – Dobrodružství Toma Sawyera</i>	Ať tu na místě umřu, jestli jsem věděl, co dělám.	I wish I may die this minute if I did.