

Abstract

The subject of this bachelor thesis is the analysis of the character of the general human agent, in English and Czech. The thesis analyses English and Czech translation counterparts of the pronoun *on* which serves as a marker of the general human agency in French. This pronoun has numerous functions but our thesis will study only its generic use. Nor English, neither Czech has a direct translation equivalent of *on* so they use divergent language means with different primary functions. These language means can be explicit or implicit and they had been analysed in studies of Dušková (1999), Tláškal (2004), Čermák (2010) or Železná (2011). This bachelor thesis studies the character of the individual translation counterparts in both languages and how was their choice influenced by the features of the French text. The analysis was based on the material from 4 French novels and their translations to English and Czech. 25 random examples were excerpted from each novel and these were studied together with their translations. The resulting translation counterparts of *on* are analysed separately in English and Czech. They are classified by the type of reference and if they are congruent or divergent means of translating *on*. The final analysis studies the most frequent counterparts of *on* which show similar features concerning their semantics, stylistics, type of reference and most importantly, the context they occur in most frequently. These features help determine which language means present in the French original affect the choice of the translation counterpart of *on* in English and Czech. Based on these results, we should be able to at least partially predict what translation counterpart will be used in each context. We believe that this thesis will prove the advantages of the contrastive approach and will be a good starting point for future studies dealing with a larger amount of data.

Key words: general human agent, impersonals, generic reference, English, Czech, French