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**Impersonalization strategies in English, French and Czech: the translation counterparts of the French pronoun *on***

Neosobní konstrukce v angličtině, francouzštině a češtině: překladové protějšky francouzského zájmena *on*

Děkuji doc. PhDr. Markétě Malé, Ph.D. za vedení práce, za její ochotu, trpělivost, vstřícnost a cenné rady.

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.

I declare that the following BA thesis is my own work for which I used only the secondary literature that is listed in the resources. This thesis was not used as a part of any other university study, nor it was used to gain a different university degree.

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## **Abstrakt**

Předmětem této bakalářské práce je zkoumání charakteru všeobecného lidského konatele v angličtině a češtině. Práce analyzuje anglické a české překladové protějšky francouzského zájmena *on*, které funguje jako „marker“ všeobecného lidského konatele. Toto zájmeno má mnoho funkcí, naše práce však zkoumá pouze jeho generickou podobu, která může být nerestriktivní nebo restriktivní. Ani angličtina, ani čeština nedisponují přímým překladovým protějškem *on*, a pro vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele tak využívají různé jazykové prostředky, které mají jiné primární funkce. Tyto jazykové prostředky jsou jak explicitní, tak implicitní, a byly zkoumány v pracích Duškové (1999), Tlaskala (2004), Čermáka (2010) nebo Železného (2011). Práce studuje charakter překladových protějšků *on* v obou jazycích a jak byl jejich výběr ovlivněn prvky přítomnými ve francouzském textu. K této analýze byl využit materiál ze 4 francouzských románů a jejich překladů do angličtiny a češtiny. Z každého románu bylo excerpováno 25 náhodně seřazených příkladů, které jsou prostudovány i s jejich anglickými a českými překlady. Výsledné jazykové koreláty jsou analyzovány zvlášť v angličtině a zvlášť v češtině, kde byly vždy rozděleny podle jejich typu reference, a zda jsou kongruentními či divergentními překladovými protějškem francouzského *on*. Závěrečná analýza zkoumá nejfrekventovanější protějšky, které vykazují podobné charakterové rysy, co se týče jejich sémantiky, stylistiky, referenčního záběru a zejména kontextu, ve kterém se vyskytují. Tyto charakterové rysy pomáhají určit jazykové prostředky přítomné ve francouzských větách, které ovlivňují výběr překladového protějšku *on* v angličtině a češtině. Na základě výsledků této analýzy bychom měli být schopni alespoň částečně předpovědět, jaký jazykový prostředek bude nejpravděpodobněji využit v daném kontextu. Věříme, že tato práce dokáže výhody kontrastivního přístupu a bude dobrým počátečním bodem k budoucím studiím, které budou moci pracovat s větším množstvím dat.

**Klíčová slova:** všeobecný lidský konatel, generická reference, angličtina, čeština, francouzština

## **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

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## **1. Introduction**

This thesis will analyse the expressions of the general human agent in English and Czech using the English and Czech translation counterparts of the French pronoun *on*. This pronoun has various uses but we will concentrate only on its generic use, which functions as a marker of the general human agency. Since neither English nor Czech has a direct translation equivalent to *on*, their divergent translation counterparts will be explored. The analysis should demonstrate what language means are used in English and Czech and how is their choice influenced by the character of the original French text.

After this introduction, the theoretical section will explain the term general human agent and the basic classification of the reference which we will work with. The French pronoun *on* will be described in detail and its different uses will be demonstrated. The chapter will also include English and Czech expressions of the general human agent as they were defined in the secondary literature.

The Material and Method chapter will introduce the material that was used to extract the 100 excerpts for our analysis. The selection and format of the examples will be explained together with the demonstration of how were the examples classified based on the type of their reference.

After this chapter, the Analysis will continue with the study of our material. The English and Czech translation counterparts will be first treated separately, analysed for their characteristic features and sorted by their frequency. In the last part of the analysis, the most frequent English and Czech counterparts will be compared for possible similarities or differences. Based on the results, hypothetical features of the French text that may influence the use of the translation counterparts in English and Czech will be defined.

The results will be commented and explained in the Conclusion.

The bibliographical part will include all secondary literature used for this thesis along with the 4 novels and their translations from which the source material was extracted.

The aim of the thesis, its theoretical background, methodology and results of the analysis will be summarized in the Czech Resumé.

The Appendix will include complete list of the analysed examples.



## 2. Theoretical background

### 2.1 General human agent

When exploring the general human agent, at one point we encounter the question to what extent we can consider the sentence to be still generic and expressing general human agency. Expressions that are considered generic deal with groups of people who are not specified as individuals. Some of these sentences are completely universal and can allude to every human being, such as *One always minds waste*. (Dušková, 1999: 49), but some sentences may relate to only certain groups of people which are usually further specified by a local or a temporal context, profession description or a situation of discourse, for example: *In Spain, they eat late*. (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 128) or *They changed the tax laws last year*. (ibid.). Such examples could be refused as generic as they do not refer to every human being but we would probably soon find out that there are not many sentences that would be absolutely universal and that it is sometimes very difficult to draw the line between what refers to all people, and what refers to only a large group of people.

van der Auwera et al. (2012) and Gast, van der Auwera (2013), whose approach is the basis of our study, include a very wide range of examples of the generic human agent which vary in the extent of genericity. This thesis will not follow their classification of the generic reference into individual subtypes but it will accept their primary division between sentences with the general human agent and those that are non-generic. In their works, we are presented with semantic maps whose nodes are divided by two criteria: the ‘state of affairs’ and ‘the human impersonal participant’. Whereas the first may be either episodic or generic and it can still represent the generic human agent, e.g. [*When the minister entered*], *you could see that he was nervous*. (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 11), the nodes with ‘the human impersonal participant’ cannot occur with all types of reference. The human participant is still considered generic if it appears as existential indefinite or existential ‘collective’, which refers to a definite group of indefinite individuals (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 14), e.g. *They’ve been frying chips here*. (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 128). The definiteness of singular individuals can be, however, no longer considered as a representative of the general human agent. Following this scheme, we will study the general human agent present in the generic and existential cases. Their examples and position in our own classification will be explained in the following subchapter.

### 2.1.1 Generic reference and its subtypes

Generic reference alludes to all members of a certain class, race or a group. It is easily recognized in those sentences, where the adverb “generally” may be inserted without changing the sentence’s meaning (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 9). Since “[r]eference is clearly context-dependent,” (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002: 399) we may assume that the less context we are provided with, the more generic the reference will be. Without any context, there is no reference to anyone in particular and the generic reference may be thus called ‘non-restricted’, as in: *Did anyone telephone while I was out?* (CGEL, 2002: 400). When there is more context provided, we will call the reference ‘restricted’, e.g. *Sur place en Brianza, on parle surtout du problème de l’avortement.* (Atlani, 1984: 18). The non-generic examples will be called ‘non-generic restricted’. This distinction and terminology<sup>1</sup> is crucial for our thesis and our division of the generic reference.<sup>2</sup>

#### Generic non-restricted reference

The first type of reference, generic non-restricted reference, is what we are most concerned with in our thesis. These sentences are purely generic and their reference includes all human beings. They are non-restricted, so the general human participant is in no manner limited by locality, time or any other specification, for example: *You only live once.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 19), or *on est pourri par l’argent* (Viollet, 1988: 72). This type of reference is, therefore, the most easily distinguishable one.

#### Generic restricted reference

The second group is not strictly distinguished from the first one, it differs only in the degree of genericity, which is why it will be equally analysed in our thesis. The reference is still considered generic but it is more specific because of the presence of some surrounding context. Such referents are “restricted by the predicate of which they are an argument” (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 128) and in addition they can be specified locally, by time, or by a situation of discourse. These sentences are mostly episodic with an existential indefinite referent, e.g. *They’ve stolen my car.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 14) or *On a retrouvé ton porte-monnaie.* (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 126).

This group comprises the mentioned ‘collective’ human participant, which alludes to a definite group of indefinite individuals (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 14). The group is

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<sup>1</sup> The terminology was established especially for the purposes of this thesis, as we wanted to avoid well-known terms such as ‘specific reference’ that could go against our own classification of genericity.

<sup>2</sup> In her master thesis, Kateřina Machová (2013: 10) cites Štícha’s work showing that his classification is quite similar to ours. He makes a distinction between the general reference and the anonymized one where the subject is not completely general, but it refers to either more or less specified group of people of the same profession.

usually not named or clearly specified but we understand its identity thanks to our knowledge of the world, e.g. *They have raised the taxes again.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 14) or *Nous avions un marché superbe, on nous l'a supprimé.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 53). The referents of these examples are clearly politicians. It is important to remember that the members of these groups are always indefinite because this is the distinguishing factor from the non-generic restricted reference.

In contrast to the classification of impersonals carried out by van der Auwera et al. (2012) and Gast, van der Auwera (2013), the generic restricted reference will also include sentences such as *In the middle ages you married young.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 19) or *Heureusement, on a perdu la guerre.* (Atlani, 1984: 15). Although this type of sentences was classified as purely generic, “insofar as they refer to (basically) all individuals to which the predicate [...] applies” (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 128), we distinguish them from the first non-restricted reference because of their temporal or local setting, e.g. *in the middle ages.* Also, they are usually exclusive of the speaker, which additionally distinguishes them from the non-restricted reference that is always inclusive. Classifying exclusive reference as a part of the restricted reference will also solve the question of the personal pronoun *they*, whose contrast between genericity and exclusivity was already questioned by Panevová (1976: 102).<sup>3</sup>

### **Non-generic restricted reference**

The third group, the non-generic restricted reference, includes situational, anaphoric, cataphoric or deictic uses of reference. It can be found in uses of personal pronouns, generic nouns or proper names which denote specific individuals or individual things, whether they be definite or indefinite, e.g. *Bill and Fred went to jail. They'd robbed a bank.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 12).

## **2.2 French pronoun *on***

In this thesis, it is the French pronoun *on* that functions as a marker of the presence of the general human agent in a sentence, yet this does not necessarily mean that every instance of the pronoun assigns generic reference to the sentence. The pronoun *on* is indefinite but can also function as a personal pronoun, which means that it can express either generic or non-generic reference. In order to define which instances of *on* can be considered true markers of

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<sup>3</sup> She questions the genericity of *they* which is always exclusive of the speaker and the listener.

the general human agency, we will attempt to define its characteristics as a generic indefinite pronoun and show how it differs from the non-generic personal *on*.

*On* and its heterogeneous grammatical functions have been discussed by many grammarians (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003, Viollet, 1988, Atlani, 1984). The pronoun always functions as the grammatical subject of a sentence (Atlani, 1984: 13) and is described as a ‘pronom clitique’, which means that it is “an element which cannot be stressed by prosody. It is restricted to a specific position in relation to the verb; it cannot be modified or coordinated, and neither can it be used in cleft sentences”<sup>4</sup> (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 45). *On* can be usually replaced by the first person plural *nous*, its grammatical concord, nonetheless, remains with the third person singular, e.g. *On vient*. (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 46).

### ***On* as a personal pronoun**

Grammars *Le Bon Usage* (2008) or Šabršula’s grammar (1986) include *on* in the category of personal pronouns, even though its grammatical person is not marked. Those are pronouns that “denote beings, things and concepts while marking their grammatical person.”<sup>5</sup> (Grevisse, Goose, 2008: 835). In contrast to certain personal pronouns, such as *ils*, *on* refers to human beings only. This is probably due to its etymological origin because it comes from the Latin noun *homo* that means person (Železná, 2011: 10). Although a pronoun, *on* displays nominal characteristics in that it may be in certain cases preceded by the definite article *le* (Šabršula, 1986: 179). However, this feature is nowadays only a consequence of the ease of pronunciation process and it slowly disappears. As a personal pronoun, *on* also performs its ‘affective’ function, which allows it to replace not only the pronoun of a similar semantic character, *nous*, but all personal pronouns (Atlani, 1984: 13).

### ***On* as an indefinite pronoun**

Besides the uses of *on* as a personal pronoun, in majority of cases it expresses indefiniteness and is accordingly included among indefinite pronouns (Riegel et al., 1994, Šabršula, 1986). Indefinite pronouns are described as “substitutes or representatives, which means that we do not specify about whom or about what we are talking, or we do indicate this, but only in a

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<sup>4</sup> French original: “élément prosodiquement non-accentuable, contraintes sur la position par rapport au verbe, impossibilité de recevoir des modificateurs ou des coordinations, impossibilité de clivage”

*All the translations from French and Czech secondary sources are mine.*

<sup>5</sup> French or.: “Les pronoms personnels désignent les êtres, les choses, les concepts en marquant la personne grammaticale.”

general and indefinite manner”<sup>6</sup> (Šabršula, 1986: 177). *On* usually does not specify the person concerned, and rather represents a group of indefinite individuals.

Comparing the non-generic personal *on* with the generic indefinite *on*, we must remind ourselves that there is no clear-cut distinction between the two because, as explained in Section 2.1, reference may be understood as comprising of degrees of genericity. That is why *on* is often described as vague since it slides between the two poles of reference. In between these two poles, there is the generic restricted type of reference which deals with only a certain group of people.

### 2.2.1 Generic non-restricted *on*

Generic non-restricted *on* represents all human beings and like English and Czech expressions of general human agency, it can be replaced by nouns with generic reference, such as *l’homme, tout le monde* or *les gens*. The process of generalization is “the suppression of the agent while it still carries a specific semantic content [and] *on* thus represents a universal agent”<sup>7</sup> (Atlani, 1984: 15). Viollet (1988: 72) calls the generic reference of *on* ‘*valeur parcours*’, a certain “running value,” which shifts from one situation to another, from one person to another and is not part of any determined situation, nor does it refer to any definite person, e.g. *On doit aimer son prochain comme soi-même*. (Benveniste, 2003: 46).

Due to this vague category that encompasses everyone but no particular person, we can talk about a category of ‘non-personne’ as opposed to the category of ‘personne’ (Violet, 1998: 72). The latter includes all personal pronouns that work in their deictic or anaphoric and cataphoric function, referring to the present participants of discourse. As a proof of its applicability to all human beings outside the current moment of discourse, the category of ‘non-personne’ can be expressed by *on* but also by all the first and second person pronouns without changing the sentence’s meaning, e.g. *Tu dois aimer ton prochain comme toi-même / Je dois aimer mon prochain comme moi-même / Nous devons aimer notre prochain comme nous-même*. (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 46).

### 2.2.2 Generic restricted *on*

On the way towards definiteness with a lesser degree of genericity, there is a group of restricted uses of *on*. Here *on* refers to a defined group of people and the reference is of

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<sup>6</sup> Czech or.: “Zájmena zvaná neurčitá jsou substituty nebo reprezentanty v tom smyslu, že jimi blíže naznačujeme, o kom nebo o čem je řeč, nebo to naznačujeme jen neurčitě, obecně.”

<sup>7</sup> French or.: “le suppression de l’agent en tant qu’il a un contenu sémantique spécifique; *on* représente alors ‘l’universel des agents’”

course more specific, e.g. *On est prié de sonner en entrant.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 46). Yet, only the group is defined by context, the individual members remain indefinite.

This kind of reference was also called a ‘value of an anaphoric type’,<sup>8</sup> (Viollet, 1988) which does not refer to the traditional use of ‘anaphoric’ but is seen as a reference to one of the gender groups, e.g. *on part très tôt l’ matin/vous vous restez là en train d’ rien faire.* (Viollet, 1988: 70). Here *on* is either a representative of all men or of all women. The tendency to stress the contrast between one group represented by *on* or *nous* and another group represented by *vous* or *ils* was also noticed by Blanche-Benveniste, e.g. *on est fier de notre histoire, nous, les Français*” (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 50). The apposition can be a means of emphasis but also an explicit identification of one group as opposed to the other one, e.g. *On était plus fort, nous, les syndicats.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 50).

### 2.2.3 Non-generic restricted *on*

The non-generic *on* represents even more specific degree of reference. *On* is clearly determined, refers to the participants of discourse, and will be consequently excluded from our analysis. We can distinguish it from the generic *on* using interpretation or when the adjective or subject complement following *on* agrees with the implied non-generic referent, e.g. *Quand on est amoureuse, on veut faire plaisir à l’ autre pour lui plaire.* (Železná, 2011: 13). It is here that *on* applies its affective function and can replace all other personal pronouns. For example in *on parle pour ce moment de travail tout ça...* (Viollet, 1988: 69), *on* replaces the personal pronoun *nous*. Even though this use of *on* is regarded as faulty by some grammars “because it would be a fault to cumulate *nous* and *on* like subjects of the same verb,”<sup>9</sup> (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 44) we find it very popular, especially in spoken French.

Besides *nous*, *on* can replace also other personal pronouns. The sentence *On se calme!* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 46) could be alternatively worded using *vous* (*Calmez-vous!*), or using the second person singular, we could replace *Alors, on est contente?* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 47) by *Alors, tu es contente?* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 47). When accompanied by the dative form of the personal pronoun in the first person singular or plural (*me, nous*), the speaker is excluded from the reference and *on* replaces *ils*, e.g. *Je m’ étais cachée pour pas qu’ on me gronde.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 53). Like *nous*, *on* can also include another person outside of the situation of discourse, while excluding the listener, for

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<sup>8</sup> French or.: “valeur de type anaphorique”

<sup>9</sup> French or.: “L’ emploi jugé fautif est celui du cumul de nous et on comme sujets d’ un même verbe”

example: *Lui et moi, on ira à la piscine.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 49). Eventually, it can include the speaker only, e.g. *Oui, l'on a des secrets à vous révéler.* (Blanche-Benveniste, 2003: 47), which would be *Oui, j'ai des secrets à vous révéler.* using the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular.

### 2.3 General human agent in English

Although historically English possessed a 'man-pronoun' (Dušková, 1999: 41), there is no such pronoun used in the present-day English. It may be argued that the pronoun *one* serves this purpose today, however, the research carried out by Dušková (1999), Tláskal (2004) or Čemák (2010) proved that other constructions are used far more frequently. These are the passive voice, personal pronouns *you, we, they*, indefinite pronouns, non-finite constructions such as the infinitive or participle, nouns with generic reference like *a man, a fellow, people* or even construction with anticipatory or empty *it* and existential *there*-sentences. The translation of *on* is thus not just a case of lexis but it deals with syntax as well and often uses rephrasing. Moreover, "all these means have other primary functions and their use as a general human agent is restricted both semantically and syntactically"<sup>10</sup> (Dušková et al., 1994: 395). Due to the number of the multiple functions of these linguistic means, we often find it difficult to distinguish the correct reference. This is especially the case with personal pronouns that can be easily generic or non-generic deictic, just like the French pronoun *on*. Consequently, the context and extra-linguistic knowledge of the world must be used when interpreting the type of reference.

In addition, the choice of the specific construction to express the general human agent seems dependant on the type of text. In texts of higher degree of formality, such as scientific papers or academic writings, implicit passive voice, the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural *we* or the indefinite pronoun *one* are usually used. In more colloquial registers, other pronouns, such as *you* and *they*, generic nouns, or anticipatory and empty *it* are to be expected (Dušková et al., 1994: 395). All these means and their characteristics from morphological, syntactic and semantic point of view will be discussed in the following section.

#### 2.3.1 Explicit devices

##### Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns are among the most frequent means of expressing the general human agent. They belong to the 'morphosyntactical type' of impersonals which comprises forms whose central function recedes to the background and gives way to the generic reference

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<sup>10</sup> Czech or.: "Všechny prostředky odpovídající těmto zájmenům mají primárně jiné funkce a jejich užívání ve funkci všeobecného lidského konatele je omezeno sémanticky a stylisticky."

(Tláskal, 2004: 380). Personal pronouns thus lose their deictic, anaphoric or cataphoric references and “function generically with reference to ‘people in general’” (Quirk et al., 1985: 353). Still, it must be remembered that “although used generically, these personal pronouns *we*, *you* and *they* retain something of the specific meaning associated with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> persons respectively” (Quirk et al., 1985: 354).

### ***You***

The personal pronoun *you* ranks among the most frequently used expressions of the general human agent (Dušková et al., 1994: 395). It is to be found in informal contexts and it is considered “an informal equivalent of *one*” (Quirk et al., 1985: 354). However, since it is inclusive of the listener and originally functions as an address to the listener, it can be difficult to recognize whether it is meant to address the listener only, or whether it alludes to all humanity in general (Dušková, 1999: 43). To test it, the generic *you* can be replaced by the impersonal *one*, which is impossible with the non-generic deictic variant (Dušková, 1999: 43). As with other personal pronouns, the ambiguity of the reference of *you* is caused by the little difference in the “degree of generality, not in the nature of reference” (Dušková, 1999: 45).

Although the meaning of *you* is inherently exclusive of the speaker, the generic *you* includes the speaker in the reference. As a consequence, *you* often appears in the narratives of the speaker’s personal experiences that gain generic reference and could be attributed to a certain group of people, e.g. *It wasn’t a bad life. You got up at seven, had breakfast, went for a walk.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 354). These sentences are usually in “the simple present tense, which is best qualified to express statements of general validity” (Dušková, 1999: 44). Simple substitution with another tense such as future even changes the generic reference to the definite one, e.g. *Well, you have to fight fire with fire, Mr. President* vs. *you will have to fight fire with fire.* (Dušková, 1999: 45).

### ***They***

Like *you*, the personal pronoun *they* is rather informal when used in generic reference. As an expression of the general human agent it loses its primary anaphoric function (less often it appears as deictic or cataphoric) but unlike other generic impersonals, it is always exclusive of the speaker and the addressee (Siewierska, Papastathi, 2011: 577). Consequently, it tends to relate to the group of “others”, described as “the mysterious forces which appear to control the ordinary citizen’s life: ‘the authorities’, the media’, ‘the government’, etc.” (Quirk et al., 1985: 354), e.g. *They changed the tax laws last year.* (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 128).



The surrounding context of *they* is quite specific. The pronoun is typically accompanied by the verbs *say* and *call*, e.g. *I guess this is what they call a home away from home.* (Dušková, 1999: 46). Moreover, *they* refers “more specifically, [and more frequently] to a group of people determined locally, temporally or otherwise by the context.” (ibid.) The local determination, e.g. *They eat dragonflies in Bali.* (Gast, van der Auwera, 2013: 141) is a common feature and seems important in order to avoid complete ambiguity of the reference. Unlike in the case of *you*, tense does not seem to be of much importance and does not affect the reference of the pronoun (Dušková, ibid.)

### ***We***

The generic *we* ranks among the expressions of general human agency used in the formal written discourse (Dušková et al., 1994: 105). Even though its non-generic version is semantically inclusive or exclusive of the addressee, the generic *we* is always inclusive (ibid.). The uses of *we* are varied and can be subdivided into different types. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 1350), these types are ‘authorial *we*’ which refers to the reader, e.g. *As we saw in Chapter 3*, or the ‘editorial *we*’ that replaces *I* in academic and scientific texts, e.g. *As we showed a moment ago*. These two are quite similar to the generic *we*, which Quirk et al. (ibid.) calls ‘the rhetorical *we*’, e.g. *Today we are much more concerned with the welfare of the people as whole*. Without much more context such sentences may be, like in the case of *you*, ambiguous in terms of their reference. As a result, *we* is also very context-dependent and most frequently used with the simple present tense, e.g. *We spend the greater parts of our lives working*. (Dušková et al., 1994: 395). When testing its genericity, we can replace it by *one* or *you* in more colloquial contexts (Dušková, 1999: 65).

### ***One and other indefinite pronouns***

Although indefinite *one* is generally considered a direct English counterpart of the French *on*, the studies showed that it is much less frequent in use than other devices (Dušková: 1999, Tláskal: 2004). This pronoun has three main functions. It can be used as a numeral, a pro-form and finally as a generic impersonal (Dušková et al., 1994: 133). In contrast to the other two functions of *one*, the generic *one* is formally defined by the existence of its possessive and reflexive forms (*one’s*, *oneself*) (Quirk et al., 1985: 387). As it can replace *you* and *we*, its reference is inclusive of both the speaker and the person addressed. These characteristics together with its semantic neutrality make it ideal to represent human individuals in general. Nonetheless, it seems to be used scarcely and usually in formal discourse along with the passive voice or the pronoun *we* (Dušková et al., 1994: 395).

Regarding its verbal context, the impersonal “*one* in combination with episodic non-modal predicates seem to be restricted to verbs of perception (and perhaps condition),” (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 21), e.g. *One saw that again later when he tried to comfort a little boy.* (ibid.). Similarly to *you*, *one* is often used in association with the first person singular when the speaker talks about his or her experiences in a more generic sense, e.g. *It’s not that often that one has the chance of studying a man of action.* (Dušková et al., 1994: 396). However, such use of *one* may be transformed to the uses of the ‘pseudo-generic’ (Altenberg, 2004: 95) when the speaker *actually* refers only to himself/herself, as in *One doesn’t want to set quotas.* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 22). In such a case, *one* does not function generically but rather as a pretentious expression professing the speaker’s belief in his or her self-importance.

Other indefinite pronouns such as *someone*, *anyone* or *no one* are also used, although far less frequently than *one*. In contrast to the French *on*, “none of these expressions functions in the position of the subject only”<sup>11</sup> (Tláškal, 2004: 379).

### **Other nominal devices**

After pronouns, generic nouns are the most frequent explicit means of expressing general human agency. These are usually *people*, *a man*, *a fellow*, *a person* and possibly *an individual*, *a woman*, *a girl*. They are formally distinguished from the nouns with a specific reference by their use of an indefinite or a zero article (Dušková, 1999: 50). Semantically, they are probably closest to the indefinite pronoun *one*, since they are easily replaced by it, as in *Why does one cry at weddings?* (ibid.). Certain institutions and nouns with unique reference may be also included among the generic nouns, e.g. *Sweden* or *the EU*. (Altenberg, 2004: 106).

Like *they*, these nouns can express generic reference without any specification but they may be also locally specified, e.g. *Why do people cry at weddings?* (Dušková et al., 1994: 396). As mentioned before, the more specific the context, the less generic these sentences are. Any modifications or restrictions, such as *only*, *even*, or *also* would have a similar effect (Dušková, 1999: 50).

### **2.3.2 Implicit devices**

#### **Passive voice**

The agentless passive represents the first kind of the implicit generic reference. It is composed of either *to be* or *to get* and the past participle. It is mostly used in formal discourse

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<sup>11</sup> Czech or.: “žádný z nich neplní pouze funkci podmětovou”

together with the pronouns *we* and *one* (Dušková et al., 1994: 105). In this context, passive is actually the most frequent means of expressing the general human agent (Dušková et al., 1994: 395). The reason for that is probably that it is “the only grammatical constructions that satisfies the requirement of an expressed subject, with the implication of a different agent” (Dušková, 1999: 51), e.g. *This is best seen when the duck begins to perform the movement in a mild state of excitation and gradually works herself into fury.* (Johansson, 2004: 268). It often correlates with *they*, which would be a subject of the active sentence, e.g. *they call it the ‘Mystery’ because it was a gift / That’s why it’s called the ‘Mystery’.* (Dušková, 1999: 51).

### **Anticipatory and empty *it***

Anticipatory *it* precedes the subject which is expressed post-verbally, usually in the form of an infinitive or less frequently, a gerund and a dependant clause (Dušková et al., 1994: 392). It does not carry any semantic meaning and functions only as an antecedent to the long post-verbal subject, e.g. (...) *before the invention of electricity it was necessary to maintain (...) a veritable army of 462,511 lamplighters for the street lamps.* (Tláškal, 2004: 379).

Empty *it* is a purely formal element without a semantical referent. Although used typically in sentences describing weather or time, such as *it was late* or *it is raining.* (Dušková et al., 1994: 392), it can be a translation counterpart of the generic *on*, e.g. *Where are the men? [...] It is a little lonely in the desert.* (Tláškal, 2004: 380).

### **Existential *there***

“*There* in the subject position functions as constitutive part of speech in the existential and existentially-locative phrases”<sup>12</sup> (Dušková et al., 1994: 392) and like the anticipatory *it* works as an anticipation of the subject proper that appears post-verbally. It represents the generic human agent where the subject proper expresses a human action, e.g. *there remains little to add* (Dušková et al., 1994: 395), or in the negative existential *there*-sentence expressing impossibility, e.g. *There is nowhere to go.* (Železná, 2011: 19).

### **Non-finite forms**

The non-finite constructions with the infinitive, participle or gerund are less frequent implicit means of rendering the general human agent in English. They perform various syntactic functions, e.g. a subject complement in *Mr President, Commissioner, reading the leaflets which have been distributed in recent week, one would think that (...)* (Gast, 2015: 11), the

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<sup>12</sup> Czech or.: “*There* v postavení podmětu je konstitutivní větný člen vět existenciálních a existenciálně lokativních.”

post modification e.g. *All information received during the past six months.* (Gast, 2015: 12), or the subject position: *Working in a gown shop is a very different proposition from working in a greengrocery shop.* (Machová, 2013: 18).

### **Inanimate replacement**

This is a special type of expressing the general human agent that includes a shift between the causer and the agent. In such sentences “the generic pronoun is omitted in the English version and replaced by a referent from another clause element, typically an object or adverbial,” e.g. *The newspapers wrote that they were both profound believers.* (Altenberg, 2004: 96). The French *on* in the subject position is thus replaced by an inanimate causer and the presence of the general human agent is only implicit, e.g. *And when your sorrow is comforted (time soothes all sorrows) you will be content that you have known me.* (Tláskal, 2004: 379).

## **2.4 General human agent in Czech**

Expressions of the general human agent in Czech are as varied as those in English since neither Czech does have a direct translation counterpart of the French *on*. Dušková (1999) lists the most frequent explicit expressions of the general human agency as the 3<sup>rd</sup> personal plural, 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular and plural, 1<sup>st</sup> person plural and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular masculine. Among the implicit references, we will often encounter the reflexive form of the verb, periphrastic passive or the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular neuter. Description of these individual means will be carried out together with a comparison with the English impersonals that were discussed in Section 2.3.

Grepl and Karlík’s study (1998) of the general human agent in Czech explains the phenomenon as ‘deagentisation’,<sup>13</sup> which is “a process during which the semantical subject (agent) is pushed from its primary syntactical position of the subject into a different position and it disappears from the surface syntactical level”<sup>14</sup> (Tláskal, 2004: 380). Shifting the agent into the background, deagentisation may cause anonymization or generalisation (Daneš et al., 1987: 235). Most generic sentences are in the present tense since “present tense works well with actions that are not current because it is a neutral time, asymptomatic”<sup>15</sup> (Daneš et al., 1987: 378).

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<sup>13</sup> Czech or.: ‘Deagentizace’

<sup>14</sup> Czech or.: “Deagentizace je jednak proces odsunutí sémantického subjektu (agentu) z jeho primární syntaktické pozice podmětu do pozice jiné, jednak eliminace sémantického subjektu z povrchové syntaktické struktury.”

<sup>15</sup> Czech or.: “Přítomný čas vyhovuje neaktuálním děním proto, že je slovesným časem “neutrálním”, bezpříznakovým”

### 2.4.1. Explicit devices

#### Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns belong among the explicit devices of expressing the general human agent. Nevertheless, since Czech does not have to fill the subject position, the person is usually expressed only in the verb ending and the pronoun is omitted. Like in English, Czech pronouns belong to morphosyntactical group of expression: they have primarily deictic, anaphoric or cataphoric functions, which are pushed back in order to allow for their generic meaning. (Tláskal, 2004: 381).

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular and plural

The second person is a very common impersonal in Czech. The singular form usually predominates but it is still far less frequent than the English *you* (Dušková et al., 1999: 54-68). Like *you*, it appears mainly in the present tense and is often ambiguous due to its primary deictic function that refers to the addressee. The generic reference is discernible when the listener normally addressed by the polite 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural gets addressed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular, for example: *Hergot, to je Břitva. Jako když vrazíš kudlu do břicha a dvakrát ji tam otočíš.* ('Damn, that's a razor. As if you shoved a knife into the stomach and twisted it twice.')<sup>16</sup> (Dušková, 1999: 54). The verbs in these generic sentences typically express capability or ability, e.g. *Takového člověka snadno přesvědčíš.* ('You can persuade such a man easily.') (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 137).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> person can be also used by the speaker to narrate his or her experiences in a generic manner, e.g. *Nakonec se bavíš jenom tím, jak je to právě vždycky stejné.* ('In the end, you're amused just by the fact that it is always the same.') (ibid.). However, unlike *you*, it does not tend to be replaced by the Czech equivalent of *one*, but rather by *člověk* ('man'). These two can even correlate in one sentence, as in: *To máš tak: piješ jako duha a nic proti sobě nemáš. A to je chyba! – Člověk má mít pořád něco proti sobě, aby 'neustrnul'.* ('It's like this: you drink like a horse and you don't mind yourself. And that's a mistake! A man should always mind himself to avoid becoming a 'fossil'.') (Dušková, 1999: 55). Consequently, the English *you* seems to correspond more to the Czech *člověk* or sometimes the reflexive form (Dušková, 1999: 70).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural

The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural is the second most frequent means of expressing the general human agent. It is used in colloquial Czech (Grepl, Karlík 1998: 137) and it is more informal than

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<sup>16</sup> The thesis was conceived for French and English speakers, consequently translations of the Czech examples will be provided for every example in Section 2.4. All translations are mine.

the English *they*. Still, like the English pronoun, it loses its primary anaphoric function (also deictic and cataphoric in lesser occurrence) and it always excludes the speaker. For this reason, it cannot be replaced by other inclusive pronouns or nouns. Only in rare cases it can be replaced by the exclusive noun *lidé* ('people'), which has, nonetheless, a more concrete in meaning (Dušková, 1999: 56). Since the generic third person plural sentences are always agentless, these sentences have a zero subject, e.g. *Zase nám zdražili elektriku*. ('They raised the price of electricity again.') (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 137). Like its English variant, it can be replaced by the periphrastic passive, e.g. *Záveského zavezli do nemocnice. / Záveský byl zavezen do nemocnice*. ('They took Záveský to the hospital. / Záveský was taken to the hospital.')

The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural also functions as *they* with its surrounding context. We can find it with the Czech equivalent of the verbs *say* and *call*, e.g. *Říkají, že na ženu moc přemýšlím*. ('They say that I think too much for a woman.') (Dušková, 1999: 55). Otherwise, it is usually accompanied by the local or time specification and refers only to a certain group of people, e.g. *Dneska si umělců váží!* ('They respect artists nowadays!') (Dušková, 1999: 56). The uses of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural are indeed almost identical with those of the English *they*, but the former is more frequent in use (Dušková, 1999: 66). Moreover, since the Czech periphrastic passive is stylistically restricted, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural is a common translation of the English passive voice (Dušková, 1999: 67).

### **1<sup>st</sup> person plural**

The first person plural is inherently inclusive of the speaker and the participant of the discourse. Thanks to this characteristic feature, it can be often replaced by *člověk* or by the reflexive form of the verb, e.g. *Jak máme obohacovat city? / Jak má člověk obohacovat city?* ('How should we enrich our feelings? / How should a man enrich his feelings?') (Dušková, 1999: 58). It is, nevertheless, more formal than the colloquial noun *člověk* and used in higher register language (Dušková, 1999: 59). It is to be often found in sentences that express necessity or obligation, e.g. *Před ale píšeme čárku*. ('We write a comma before 'ale'.') (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 137). The 1st person singular is used rarely and mostly to convey reproach, for example: *Když něco slíbím, tak to i splním* ('When I promise something, I do it.') (ibid.).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> person singular masculine**

This language means is quite exceptional and "has no formal parallel in English" (Dušková 1999: 58) because it is always subjectless. It usually appears in the examples of a proverbial character, often after *jako by* ('as if'), e.g. *jako když bičem mrská* (lit.: 'as quickly as whips') (Dušková, 1999: 58).

### **Člověk**

*Člověk* ('a man') is the most frequent substantival device of the general human agent, which is always inclusive of the speaker and the listener. It is quite colloquial and preferred in spoken or informal language. Like *one* or *you*, *člověk* can be used in the context where the speaker talks primarily about himself/herself in a broad generic sense that resembles the pseudo-generic narrative, e.g. *Krucifix – ani najíst se člověk v klidu nemůže*. ('Jesus Christ – a man can't even eat in some peace.') (Dušková, 1999: 60). As in English, it cannot be further specialized or contrasted, otherwise it would lose its generic character.

### **Lidé**

*Lidé* ('people') is similarly restricted as *člověk* (it cannot be specified to remain generic) and the two are quite frequently interchangeable. Nonetheless, Dušková's examples prove that "lidé tends toward exclusive reference, even if inclusive reference is basically inherent in the speaker's membership in the class of people" (Dušková, 1999: 60). For that reason, it could be assumed to be often replaced by the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural but such occurrence is rare. This is probably because *lidé* belongs to the generic non-restricted reference, while *they* is often specified by context and its generic reference is restricted. (Dušková, 1999: 61).

### **Jeden and indefinite pronouns**

*Jeden* could be considered a Czech translation counterpart of the English *one*. It is also a numeral that can function as a generic expression. Yet, contrarily to *one*, it is highly colloquial and not very frequent in use. Its Czech variant is the noun *člověk* (Dušková, 1999: 59).

Indefinite pronouns such as *někdo* ('someone'), *každý* ('everyone') or *kdo* ('who') are also used but they are not very frequent.

## **2.4.2 Implicit devices**

### **Reflexive form**

The reflexive form is considered "the principal *man*-device in Czech" (Dušková, 1999: 61). Like other subjectless constructions, it does not have an equivalent in English. Grepl and Karlík (1998) include it as a means of deagentisation of the agent and patient, where the patient takes the position of the subject of the sentence, while the agent remains unexpressed. In the example *jeho objev někdo přezkouší / jeho objev se přezkouší* ('someone will check his discovery / his discovery reflexive particle checks'), the pronoun *někdo* becomes the implicit agent of the sentence (Tláskal, 2004: 382). The agent can be indicated only as a local or

temporal specification of the predicate, which is usually the case with institutions, e.g. *Na dráze se zavedly nové typy jízdenek.* ('At the train company *reflexive particle* implemented new type of train tickets.') (Daneš et al., 1987: 235). "Equally, reflexive cannot be used if the speaker or the addressee is a speaker. (Reflexive form is restricted to the 3rd person.)" (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 135). Transitive verbs are preferred (ibid.) and often the modal verb is present e.g. *Chyby se musí odstraňovat.* ('Mistakes *reflexive particle* must remove.') (Dušková, 1999: 62).

Regarding its semantic character, the reflexive form can be inclusive, exclusive, broad or very specific. It is thus regarded as very neutral (Panevová, 1976: 102) but this does not mean that it is replaceable by all other generic devices. It rather means that its neutrality and implicit expression of the agent make it adaptable to various contexts (Dušková, 1999: 62-63). The reflexive sentences are either subjectful or subjectless, where the former is more frequent in use and is "generally regarded as having passive force" (Dušková, 1999: 61).

### **Periphrastic passive**

The periphrastic passive appears both as periphrastic and reflexive, subjectful and subjectless. "As subjectless passives also take the form of 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular neuter, there is no formal difference between a subjectless reflexive passive and a reflexive active in the man-form" (Dušková, 1999: 53). Like the English passive, it is used mostly in formal writings and it is rather literary, not very colloquial or frequently used in speech (Dušková, 1999: 56). We are concerned only with the agentless passive in our thesis but the agent would be normally expressed using the instrumental case, e.g. *Byt byl zapečetěn policií.* ('The apartment was sealed by the police.') (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 134). The agentless sentences are those, where the stative verb is present because in these, the agent cannot be expressed (ibid: 136). When used in spoken Czech, the past participle is often replaced by the verbal adjective. (Dušková, 1999: 63).

### **Subjectless *be* + infinitive**

This is a minor type of an implicit reference to the general human agent that is again non-existent in English. Tláskal (2004) calls it a '*je* + infinitive' structure where the infinitive is usually a sensory verb, e.g. *je vidět na Sněžku.* ('is see the Sněžka mountain.'). (Dušková, 1999: 53). In contrast to other verbs, the sensory verb implicitly expresses the presence of the general human agent.



### **Inanimate replacement**

Like in English, Czech can use the inanimate replacement where the roles of the participants change and the inanimate object replaces the original subject of the sentence, e.g. *Hvězdy nám mohou patřit.* ('The stars can belong to us.') (Tláskal, 2004: 382).

### **Other minor types**

Grepl and Karlík (1998: 138-140) also mention other minor devices of deagentisation, such as the verbs *dojít k* ('something to happen'), *mít* ('to have') and *dostat* ('to receive'), e.g. *Mám přikázáno vrátit se za světla.* ('I am told to return while there is still light out.'). Daneš et al. mentions constructions with *nechat* or *dát* ('let' or 'have something done'), e.g. *Nechal jsem si ušít nové šaty.* ('I had my dress made.'). (Daneš et al., 1987: 236).

## **2.5 Expected English and Czech translations of the French *on***

Based on these results of the past studies on English and Czech impersonals, we can try to predict what language means will be used as translation counterparts of the French *on*<sup>17</sup>. For the formal description of the translation counterparts we will use the terminology from Johansson (2007).

Even though the covert English passive and Czech reflexive rank among the most probable translation counterparts of *on* and will be probably common in use, when added together, the overt counterparts, i.e. pronouns and nouns, are likely to be more frequent. Moreover, congruent counterparts to the French *on* should be expected because translations tend to follow the structure of the source text. Among these, the second person pronoun *you* and the third person pronoun *they* will probably score high in English, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular verb endings are to occur in Czech. The noun *člověk* will likely be frequent too.

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<sup>17</sup> This prediction is primarily based on Dušková (1999) because her study includes the most extensive results.

### 3. Material and Method

#### 3.1 Material

The material was drawn from the parallel corpus InterCorp. Four French novels and their translations into English and Czech were selected for the analysis, namely Albert Camus' *La peste* translated into English and Czech by Stuart Gilbert and Milena Tomášková, respectively, Louis Ferdinand Céline's *Voyage au bout de la nuit* translated by Ralph Manheim and Jaroslav Zaorálek, Michel Houellebecq's *Les Particules élémentaires* translated by Frank Wynne and Alan Beguivin, and Amélie Nothomb's *Stupeur et tremblements* translated by Adriana Hunter and Jarmila Fialová.

#### Definition of an example

The example was defined as a sentence including at least one instance of the generic *on*. Since examples with definite reference were not considered part of our thesis, they were all excluded from the analysis. Only those French examples whose English and Czech translation included either explicit or implicit counterpart of *on* were included in the dataset. All translations with zero correspondence, if only in one translation, were excluded (ex.1).

- 1) (...) et le type d'en bas même, du Paritz, avec son uniforme bleu comme le ciel et doré comme le soleil, le concierge **qu'on appelait** (...) (CFL:FR, 299)  
*(...) i ten chlap dole v hotelu, v uniformě modré jako nebe a zlaté jako slunce – říkali mu vrátný* (...) (CFL:CZ, 367)  
(...) and the character down at the door with his uniform as blue as the sky and as golden as the sun, **the doorman**, (...) (CFL:EN, 334)

Sentences where *on* occurred several times in one sentence were considered a single example as long as *on* expressed the same type of reference (ex. 2, ex. 3).

- 2) **On ne naît pas raciste, on le devient.** (62-HM:FR,509)  
*Rasistou se nerodíme, ale stáváme.* (62-HM:CZ,505)  
**We Become Racist, We Are Not Born That Way.** (62-HM:EN,557)
- 3) Quand **on sera** au bord du trou faudra pas faire les malins nous autres, mais faudra pas oublier non plus, faudra raconter, tout sans changer un mot, de ce **qu'on a vu** de plus vicieux chez les hommes (...) (01-CLF:FR,91)  
*Až budeme nad hrobem my, nebudeme smět hrát si na chytráky, ale taky nebudeme smět zapomenout, budeme muset doslova přesně vypravovat všechno, co hnusného jsme u lidí viděli* (...) (01-CLF:CZ,110)  
When **the grave lies open before us**, let's not try to be witty, but on the other hand, let's not forget, but make it our business to record the worst of the human viciousness **we've seen** without changing one word. (01-CLF:EN,120)

If the multiple instances of *on* expressed different kinds of reference, and were translated by different means, we considered them as separate examples.

- 4) Mais **on me disait** que ces quelques morts étaient nécessaires pour amener un monde où **l'on ne tuerait plus** personne. (49-CA:FR,1251)  
*Říkali mi* však, že těch několika mrtvých je nezbytně třeba k tomu, abychom nastolili takový svět, v němž **se nebude zabíjet**. (49-CA:CZ,1312)  
But **I was told** that these few deaths were inevitable for the building up of a new world in which **murder would cease to be**. (49-CA:EN,1319)

### Examples code

For further clarification, all excerpts were numbered according to their source.<sup>18</sup> First 25 examples excerpted from Céline's *Voyage au bout de la nuit* were numbered 1-25, examples from Camus followed with 26-50, Houellebecq's got 51-75 and Nothomp's examples received 76-100. All examples are sorted by these numbers in the Appendix. After this number, the example code includes the initials of the author, the language of the example and the page number where it is to be found in the original source. Following this description, the code (53-CA:EN, 463) is a 53<sup>rd</sup> example from the appendix, 3<sup>rd</sup> random sentence from the English translation of Camus' *La Peste* which is to be found on the page 463 of the novel.

### 3.2 Method

We were planning to use the new version of InterCorp v10 to search for excerpts but as the new version was not yet available at the start of our analysis, a pilot study was first conducted using the ParaConc software. In this study, French excerpts were searched using the KonText corpus manager; afterwards we looked for their parallel translations manually in ParaConc. Thanks to this research, we could verify the presence of the generic *on* in the French texts and see what English and Czech correspondences may be expected in the translations. It also allowed us to control whether the original sentences were correctly aligned with their respective translations.

When the new version of InteCorp v10 was provided by the Czech National Corpus, a subcorpus for each of the four novels and its translations was created. The excerpts analysed in the thesis were all searched in the InterCorp v10 using the KonText corpus manager. In order to achieve maximum objectivity and randomness of our examples, the subcorpus of each novel was searched separately, and the results were automatically shuffled by the KonText corpus manager. From each novel, first 25 randomly shuffled excerpts were chosen

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<sup>18</sup> The example code was inspired by Železná's thesis (2011).

for our analysis. In total, 100 French original examples were analysed together with their English and Czech translations.

All French examples were examined and those with a definite use of *on* or zero correspondence in translation were excluded and replaced by the following sentence in the search result. The final set of generic sentences was classified according to whether *on* was generic non-restricted or restricted. As shown in Table 1, the uses of *on* were distributed evenly in our data and except for Camus's *La Peste*, they did not show any deviation that would be of interest in our study.

Type of source	Non-restricted	Restricted
Céline	13	12
Camus	6	19
Houellebecq	14	11
Nothomp	13	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>

Table 1: Distribution of the restricted and non-restricted uses of *on*<sup>19</sup>

All translation counterparts of *on* were first analysed separately in English and Czech. The results of the two analyses were then compared. As the most frequent English and Czech impersonals demonstrated common features, they were analysed again within their shared context, which showed interesting results regarding the type of their reference, context and narrator.

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<sup>19</sup> We were working with 100 hundred examples, so the number of cases also represents their percentage in the whole excerpt.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1 English translation counterparts

In English, overt counterparts of *on* were the most frequent, even though the difference between overt and covert counterparts was much smaller than we had expected. This was probably caused by the unexpectedly high frequency of the passive voice which was, with 27 examples, the most frequent English counterpart of *on*. Table 2 shows that congruent pronouns were used in 43 examples while only 13 examples included divergent means, such as nouns.

<b>Overt correspondence</b>	56	
Congruent	43	77%
Divergent	13	23%
<b>Covert correspondence</b>	44	

Table 2: Distribution of the correspondences in English

Overt English counterparts		Frequency
<b>Congruent</b>	<i>you</i>	21
	<i>they</i>	10
	<i>we</i>	6
	<i>one</i>	3
	<i>no one / anyone</i>	3
<b>Divergent</b>	<i>people</i>	6
	<i>man / men</i>	3
	other specific collective nouns	4
Covert English counterparts		Frequency
<b>Divergent</b>	Passive (including the infinitive)	27
	inanimate replacement	8
	<i>there</i> -sentence	6
	<i>it</i> -sentence	2
	present participle	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

Table 3: English counterparts of *on*

All the attested counterparts are presented in Table 3, and their description will be ordered and addressed based on their frequency in the respective group.

#### 4.1.1 Overt counterparts

##### *You*

*You* was the most frequent congruent counterpart and the second most frequent correspondence of *on*, which appeared 21 times in the English translations. This pronoun had been expected to be frequent mainly in informal passages and instances of direct speech, where it indeed appeared repeatedly. However, it also proved frequent in use in stylistically neutral or even formal passages. Our concern about the ambiguity of its references proved unnecessary as all the examples were quite straightforward. *On* expressed non-restricted generic reference and the vast majority of the sentences were in the present simple tense.

Another common feature of all the examples was their source. 16 from 21 examples were translations of Céline's and Nothomp's novels. These texts are written in the 1<sup>st</sup> person homodiegetic voice of the narrator who talks about experiences in war in Céline's book and about a year spent in Japan in Nothomp's novel. *You* seemed to fit perfectly both narratives because of its almost pseudo-generic aspect, which occurs in the sentences where a narrator discusses his or her experiences in a generic manner (ex. 5). In ex (6), we can even see the use of the possessive pronoun in the 1<sup>st</sup> person singular, as the narrator moves from the generic (using the present simple) to his own personal non-generic experiences (using the past simple).

- 5) Mais quand on y est, tout s'explique, et les Aztèques et leur mépris du corps d'autrui (...) (08-CLF:FR,153)

*Once you're in a war, you see how it is: the Aztecs' contempt for other people's bodies (...) (08-CLF:EN,178)*

- 6) Mais quand on a très faim, un croûton de pain devient alléchant: dans l'état de désœurement et d'inanition où mon cerveau se trouvait, cette liste me parut croustillante comme un magazine à scandale. (97-NO:FR,51)

*But when you are very hungry the tiniest crust of bread is a feast. In the starved state in which my brain found itself, the list seemed as juicy as a gossip magazine. (97-NO:EN,49)*

We considered such sentences generic because *on* was part of a time clause starting with *quand* (ex. 5). These temporal clauses function similarly to conditional clauses, which means that they set a certain possible situation that any human can experience and react to. It is a device that helps the narrator present his or her experiences to the listener in such a way so

that the listener can relate to it easily. The same principle was exercised using the conditional clauses starting with *si* (ex. 7) and the comparative clauses including *comme* (ex. 8).

- 7) Ce qui me paraît encore plus certain, c'est que **si on en parle**, il y a de sérieux risques d'aggraver la situation. (93-NO:FR,277)  
*And there's one thing I'm even more sure of, and that's **if you do talk**, there's a serious chance you'll make things worse.* (93-NO:EN,274)
- 8) **On n'y entre** qu'à pied, **comme** à l'église. (07-CLF:FR,886)  
***You can enter** it only on foot, **like** a church.* (07-CLF:EN,884)

### **They**

*They* was the second most used personal pronoun and also quite a frequent translation counterpart since it occurred in 10% of the examples. It was always exclusive of the speaker and the listener, and expressed reference restricted by a local or time specification. This was true for all examples except for ex. (9), which was very vague and non-restricted.

- 9) Beckett était probablement ce **qu'on appelle** un grand écrivain: pourtant, Michel n'avait réussi à terminer aucun de ses livres. (64-HM:FR,300)  
*Presumably he was **what they called** a great writer, though Michel had never managed finish a single one of his books.* (64-HM:EN,327)

In contrast to other personal pronouns, *they* often occurred with the past simple without losing its genericity. This is probably related to its restricted use because specific events are usually narrated in the past tense (ex. 10). The reference of *they* could range from a vague description of a nation or society (ex. 9), to rather specific groups of people living in the same district or sharing the same profession (ex. 11). The contextualization could be done using adverbials (ex. 10) or verbs associated with a particular group of people (ex. 11). In the vague cases, *they* could also have a negative connotation and refer to “the mysterious forces which appear to control the ordinary citizen’s life” (Quirk et al., 1985: 354) that had been mentioned in the theoretical part (ex. 12).

- 10) **À ce moment on entendit**, dans le lointain, la sonnerie du passage à niveau. (63-HM:FR,788)  
***At that moment they heard** the bells at the train crossing ringing in the distance.* (63-HM:EN,847)
- 11) **A-t-on pu le défendre** encore longtemps **ce hameau brûlant** contre la faux sournoise du fleuve aux eaux beiges? (20-CLF:FR,761)  
***Have they managed to defend** that **scorching hamlet** against the insidious scythe of the yellowish-brown river?* (20-CLF:EN,766)

- 12) On se rend alors compte où **qu'on vous a mis**. (24-CLF:FR)  
*Then you realize **where they've put you***. (24-CLF:EN,1095)

### **People**

The noun *people* was always used with a zero article and appeared 6 times in our excerpt. It was not bound to either present or past tense but used rather freely. 3 of its examples functioned very similarly to *they*; they expressed restricted reference and the context was either locally specified and referred to a specific group of people (ex. 13), or it remained vague and referred to society in general (ex. 14).<sup>20</sup>

- 13) A Oran comme ailleurs, faute de temps et de réflexion, **on est bien obligé de s'aimer** sans le savoir. (27-CA:FR,8)  
*At Oran, as elsewhere, for lack of time and thinking, **people have to love one another** without knowing much about it.* (27-CA:EN,6)

- 14) Ne dites pas trop de mal de vous-même: **on vous croirait**. (80-NO:FR,966)  
*Don't speak too ill of yourself. **People will believe you***. (80-NO:EN,952)

Three examples expressed non-restricted reference. Even though these sentences could be interpreted as inclusive, the use of *people* made the narrator sound more distant or even excluded from the reference (ex. 15).

- 15) Ce ne sont pas les crimes qui se comptent en ce monde... Il y a longtemps **qu'on y a renoncé**... (18-CLF:FR,334)  
*It's not crimes that count in this world... **people stopped counting** them long ago...* (18-CLF:EN,366)

### **We**

The personal pronoun *we* was used 6 times. It appeared in rather informal examples and mostly in the present tense. 2 of the examples were restricted by the situation of the discourse. They were, however, rather vague and without any negative connotation or any specific description unlike the examples including *people* or *they* (ex. 16).

- 16) Il disait à peu près qu'il ne fallait pas essayer de s'expliquer le spectacle de la peste, mais tenter d'apprendre ce **qu'on pouvait en apprendre**. (30-CA:FR,1168)  
*Apparently it came to this: **we might try to explain the phenomenon of the plague**, but, above all, **should learn what it had to teach us**.* (30-CA:EN,1229)

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<sup>20</sup> Even though there is not much context provided, the speaker is excluded from the reference, which makes the reference restricted.



The examples (17) and (18) show that while *on* is said to use mostly third person singular possessive pronouns *son, sa, ses*, in some cases it used the first person plural possessive *notre* or even an anaphoric *nous* following the first instance of the *on*-phrase. Such sentences were quite understandably translated using *we* in English. Ex. (18) is also a demonstration of the non-restricted use of *we*.

17)(...) car pour l' entretien des choses chez nous, **on a aucun goût, on est** même à cet égard de francs dégueulasses. (25-CLF:FR,413)

(...) *because maintenance isn't a French virtue, we have no taste for it, in fact, we're downright disgusting in that respect.* (25-CLF:EN,432)

18) **Quand on sera au bord du trou** faudra pas faire les malins nous autres, mais faudra pas oublier non plus, faudra raconter, tout sans changer un mot, de ce **qu'on a vu** de plus vicieux chez les hommes (...) (01-CLF:FR,91)

*When the grave lies open before us, let's not try to be witty, but on the other hand, let's not forget, but make it our business to record the worst of the human viciousness we've seen without changing one word.* (01-CLF:EN,120)

### **One**

*One* occurred only 3 times in our data and confirmed the claims of the earlier studies (Dušková: 1999, Tláškal: 2004) that it belongs to the least frequent expressions of the general human agent. In all examples, it expressed generic non-restricted reference and was inclusive of the speaker. All of the sentences were also in the present simple tense. Although ex. (19) includes a sensory verb which are typically used with *one* (van der Auwera et al., 2012: 21), it was the only example in our excerpt. All other instances of *on* followed by a sensory verb, such as *entendre*, were translated using different means. The examples with *one* did not resemble pseudo-generic narrative but, as in the case of *you*, they included conditional or comparative clauses (ex. 19).

19) Je le regardai comme on regarde le Messie. (88-NO:FR, 171)

*I gazed at him as one might the Messiah.* (88-NO:EN, 170)

### **No one and anyone**

The indefinite pronouns *no one* and *anyone* occurred 3 times in our excerpt. There were 2 instances of *no one* and 1 instance of *anyone*. They were all followed by negative predicates but the use of tenses varied and did not seem to demonstrate any special properties which would differentiate them from other translation counterparts. *No one* was used in declarative sentences, *anyone* was to be found in a question. Two examples were restricted (ex. 20), one was non-restricted (ex. 21). Ex. (21) also shows the anaphoric use of *they* which refers to *no*

*one*. In response to the fights for gender equality, the use of *they* is nowadays a common anaphore to *no one*, which is why it was not considered a separate example in our analysis.

20) **On ne vous a jamais dit**, Fubuki, qu'il était avilissant de rudoyer les handicapés mentaux? (83-NO:FR,444)

*Has anyone ever told you, Fubuki, that it is wrong to mistreat the mentally impaired?* (83-NO:EN,442)

21) **On ne sait** ce qu'est un excentrique si l'on n'a pas rencontré un excentrique nippon. (84-NO:FR,515)

*No one knows what "eccentric" truly means until they've met a Japanese eccentric.* (84-NO:EN,515)

### **Man / men**

In comparison to the Czech counterpart *člověk*, *man* was a considerably less frequent translation of *on* with only 3 occurrences. 2 instances were in singular, 1 in plural. All three sentences were informal, and they expressed generic non-restricted reference. The plural form *men* was used with a zero article, the singular *man* was preceded by the pronoun *no* (ex. 23) and by an indefinite article *a*. The only difference between the singular and the plural form of the noun was the presence of a vague temporal setting in the example with *men* (ex. 22).

22) Seulement en se méfiant des confidences **qu'on lui faisait** trop aisément dans ces moments-là. (23-CLF:FR,306)

*But watch your step, because men tend to get too confiding on such occasions.* (23-CLF:EN,343)

23) **On ne peut pas toujours tendre** sa volonté et toujours se raidir, et c'est un bonheur que de délier enfin, dans l'effusion, cette gerbe de forces tressées pour la lutte. (28-CA:FR,1367)

*No man can live on the stretch all the time, with his energy and will-power strained to the breaking-point, and it is a joy to be able to relax at last and loosen nerves and muscles that were braced for the struggle.* (28-CA:EN,1437)

### **Other nominal devices**

Apart from the generic nouns *people* and *man*, there were also 4 examples of translating *on* using the name of the restricted collective the indefinite individuals belong to. We can notice the narrowing of the reference, which now explicitly names the agent of the sentence. The original French sentences always contained certain specification which clarified what social group is meant (ex. 24).

24) La cheville était très endommagée, **on eut du mal** à récupérer les éclats d'os (...) (59-HM:FR,129)

*His ankle was badly broken, and though **surgeons worked hard** to reassemble the bone fragments (...) (59-HM:EN,136)*

#### 4.1.2 Covert counterparts

##### Passive

Passive occurred 27 times and was hence the most frequent device of expressing the general human agent in the English translations. Despite our predictions, it occurred in a wide variety of passages, some of which were even very informal (ex. 25).

25) Misère pour misère, je préférais encore celle qui ne fait pas de bruit à toute celle **qu'on étale** dans les journaux. (22-CLF:FR,1492)

*Trouble for trouble, I preferred the quiet kind **that's not splashed** all over the newspapers. (22-CLF:EN,1486)*

Still, the language used in the sentences translated by the passive was somehow peculiar in comparison to other examples. 22 of the examples were in the past tense and the use of modals was much higher; they occurred in 9 sentences. The majority of the examples in the past tense expressed restricted reference while 4 of those using modals expressed generic non-restricted reference. There were also 2 examples of the passive infinitive. (ex. 26)

26) **On ne m'y revit** jamais. (87-NO:FR,997)

*(...) I left the Yumimoto Corporation, **never to return again**. (87-NO:EN,980)*

This division of uses of the passive divided our examples into two groups according to their semantic meaning. The restricted sentences in the past tense were very similar to the sentences with *they* and they could be easily transformed to the active voice using this pronoun as the subject. These sentences either referred to a defined group of people, whose degree of specificity depended on the amount of the context provided (ex. 27), or they remained vague and referred to the society, which could be negative and controlling (ex. 28).

27) **On lui avait donné** beaucoup de morphine (...) (73-HM:FR,119)

***She had been given** a great deal of morphine (...) (73-HM:EN,126)*

28) **On l'a** pour ainsi dire **amputée** de cette faculté essentielle. (94-NO:FR,555)

*Her **imagination has been amputated**. (94-NO:EN,558)*

In contrast, the non-restricted modal sentences tended to be formal expressions typically used in the written language. They were of extrinsic modality and expressed possibility (ex. 29).

- 29) **On ne pouvait cependant pas lui reprocher** d'avoir trop travaillé car, aux yeux d'un Japonais, on ne travaille jamais trop. (89-NO:FR,564)  
*She could not, however, be reproached for working too hard because, in the eyes of the Japanese, you can never work too hard. (89-NO:EN,567)*

The restricted modal examples expressed intrinsic modality (ex. 30) and could include sensory verbs (ex. 31). Sentences with this kind of verbs were rendered using the modal verb *can* to express the ability. This was usually unnecessary in the French original where the modality was already expressed implicitly by the sensory verb.

- 30)(...) ils avaient le sentiment, d'ailleurs peu raisonnable, **qu'on aurait dû** leur permettre de partir. (26-CA:FR, 1199)  
*Indeed, they had a natural if illogical feeling that **they should have been permitted** to move out to these happier places. (26-CA:EN,1265)*

- 31) **On les voyait** se hâter par les rues, courbés en avant, un mouchoir ou la main sur la bouche. (46-CA:FR,961)  
*Those few who went out **could be seen** hurrying along, bent forward, with handkerchiefs or their hands pressed to their mouths. (46-CA:EN,1012)*

### **There-sentences**

*There* had been considered a rather infrequent translation counterpart of *on* but it was attested in 6 examples. 4 of the 6 sentences were existentially locative and their reference was restricted by an adverbial specifying the situation (ex. 32). 2 examples were cases of the negative existential constructions with an implied meaning of impossibility. They expressed restricted reference because they were either associated with the situation of the discourse or they included a local adverbial (ex. 34).

- 32) Plusieurs entreprises de haute technologie se sont installées en profitant des réductions de charges sociales et d'impôts - dans la région **on a Roche et Lilly**. (61-HM:FR,794)  
*Quite a few hi-tech companies have set up here to take advantage of the tax breaks and the low social-security payments. Round here, **there's Roche and Lilly**. (61-HM:EN,853)*
- 33) (...) dans ce quartier où les gens vivaient toujours sur leur seuil, toutes les portes étaient fermées et les persiennes closes, sans **qu'on pût savoir** si c'était de la peste ou du soleil (...) (41-CA:FR,537)  
*(...) ordinarily people living in these districts used to spend the best part of the day on their doorsteps, but now every door was shut, nobody was to be seen, even the venetian blinds stayed down, and **there was no knowing** if it was the heat or the plague (...) (41-CA:EN,586)*

## Inanimate replacement

Although we had considered it a minor counterpart, there were 8 examples of the inanimate replacement, where the generic human agent in the subject position was replaced by an inanimate element from the source sentence (Altenberg, 2004: 96). 5 examples were rendered using qualifying copulas where the modal *pouvoir* was often used in the French original (ex. 35). In the 2 examples including lexical verbs, it was always the direct object that took place of the subject (ex. 34). The kind of reference varied with each example just like the use of the present or past tense. Still, the reference was usually restricted by the context.

34) Le camping était calme, c'était la pleine lune; **on entendait le chant monotone** des rainettes. (60-HM:FR,320)

*The Lieu was quiet, the moon was full and the monotonous croak of tree frogs filled the air.* (60-HM:EN,347)

35) Pour un temps triste et confidentiel **on ne pouvait pas mieux désirer** que le temps qu'il faisait dehors. (15-CLF:FR,1592)

*The weather couldn't have been gloomier or more confidential.* (15-CLF:EN,1592)

## It-sentences

There was 1 example of the anticipatory *it* which preceded the notional subject expressed by an infinitive (ex. 36). It included a generic local adverbial<sup>21</sup> and was hence considered non-restricted. The second *it*-sentence was anaphoric and restricted due to its definite context (ex. 38).

36) (...) entre voisins, **on fait connaissance dans un camping** (...) (67-HM:FR,234)  
*(...) it's easy to get to know your neighbors when camping.* (67-HM:EN,256)

37) Dans Le Meilleur des mondes il s'agit d'anxiolytiques et d'antidépresseurs; dans Île **on a plutôt affaire à la méditation**, les drogues psychédéliques, quelques vagues éléments de religiosité hindoue. (53-HM:FR,410)

*In Brave New World, it's tranquilizers and antidepressants in Island it's hallucinogens, meditation and some vague Hindu mysticism.* (53-HM:EN,452)

## Present participle

There was only 1 case of the present participle which was accompanied by a specific noun denoting the group of people that *on* referred to in the original (ex. 38).

38) Car, dans le même temps, l'orchestre se tut, les gens du parterre se levèrent et commencèrent lentement à évacuer la sale, d'abord en silence comme **on sort** d'une église (...) (39-CA:FR,1016)

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<sup>21</sup> The generic context, often expressed by an indefinite adverbial, was always considered non-restricted because it represented a possible context not a specific one, similarly like the conditional or temporal clauses.

*For at the same moment the orchestra stopped playing, the audience rose and began to leave the auditorium, slowly and silently at first, like worshippers leaving church (...)* (39-CA:EN,1070)

## 4.2 Czech translation counterparts

The difference between overt and covert correspondences of *on* in the Czech translations was considerably larger than in English. Although we had expected high frequency of the reflexive form, it was not as frequent as the personal suffixes of verbs. Table 4 demonstrates that these congruent means<sup>22</sup> of correspondence were also much higher in use than the divergent means, similarly like in English.

<b>Overt correspondence</b>	63	
Congruent	47	75%
Divergent	16	25%
<b>Covert correspondence</b>	37	

Table 4: Distribution of the correspondences in Czech

Overt Czech counterparts		Frequency
<b>Congruent</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural	24
	1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	12
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	6
	Indefinite pronoun	4
	2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	1
<b>Divergent</b>	<i>Člověk</i>	12
	<i>Lidé</i>	3
	Other specific collective noun	1
Covert Czech counterparts		Frequency
<b>Divergent</b>	Reflexive form	15
	Inanimate replacement	13
	Periphrastic passive	5
	<i>Be</i> + infinitive sentences	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

Table 5: Czech counterparts of *on*

<sup>22</sup> The suffixes were considered congruent because like pronouns in French, they are a means of expressing the person of the subject. As Czech allows dropping the subject, its use of pronouns is not obligatory and the person is expressed only in the verb ending.

The individual Czech counterparts are to be found in Table 5 and will be treated and ordered by their frequency in the respective groups. We will also follow the structure of the theoretical background and compare the Czech results with those of the English counterparts. However, the overall general comparison of the two languages and their treatment of impersonals will be discussed in Section 4.3.

#### 4.2.1 Overt counterparts

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural

The most frequent translation counterpart of the French *on* was the 3rd person plural, whose examples constituted 24% of the examples. This pronoun had been expected to appear in passages containing direct informal speech because it is colloquial (Grepl, Karlík, 1998: 137), and indeed there were many informal examples in our excerpt. The sentences were very similar to the English ones with *they*, in that the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural always expressed the restricted reference and was always exclusive of the speaker. The sentences referred either to a specific group defined by an adverbial (ex. 39) or by using specific lexical verbs (ex. 40). The tense used in the 3rd person sentences was, however, more varied than in *they*-sentences. Apart from the past tense, there were examples of present simple, future or the conditional mood.

- 39) Dans cette rue Saint-Vincent où je n'étais allé encore qu' une seule fois, **on m'a fait demander** chez les gens du troisième au numéro 12. (04-CLF:FR,1270)  
*Do té Vincentské ulice, kde jsem byl teprve jednou, mě zavolali do čísla 12 k nájemníkům ve třetím patře.* (04-CLF:CZ,1476)  
 ('**They called me** to the tenants in the number 12 on the third floor in the Vincent street where I had been only once.')<sup>23</sup>
- 40) (...) ce n'est que bien plus tard que, par la force des choses, cette dernière pudeur disparut et **qu'on enterra** pêle-mêle, les uns sur les autres, hommes et femmes, sans souci de la décence. (37-CA:FR,975)  
 (...) *teprve mnohem později, pod tlakem událostí, zmizel i tento poslední zbytek studu a pohřbívali bez ladu a skladu jedny na druhé, muže i ženy dohromady, bez ohledu na mravopověstnost.* (37-CA:CZ,1026)  
 ('... it was only much later, under the pressure of the events, that even this last remnant of decorum disappeared and **they buried them** pell-mell, men and women together, without any regard to good morals.')

<sup>23</sup> All English translations of the Czech examples are mine. Where English used the same translation counterpart of *on* as Czech, the English translation was used.

Like in the case of *they*, there were also less specific examples that usually referred to the society in general, sometimes with the negative connotation of the controlling ‘others’ (ex. 41).

- 41) **On t’a imposé** trop de calculs pour que tu puisses aimer. (85-NO:FR,545)  
*Naučili tě přílišné vypočítavosti, než abys mohla milovat.* (85-NO:CZ,544)  
(‘**They had taught you** to be too much self-seeking to be able to love’).

### 1<sup>st</sup> person plural

The 1<sup>st</sup> person plural was slightly more frequent than *we* in English. It occurred in 12 examples and most of these sentences expressed generic non-restricted reference. Some contained formal language, some were quite informal. Non-restricted sentences were mostly expressed in the present tense (ex. 42) and even the restricted sentences were very broad and defined only by the situation of discourse (ex. 43). Like *we*, they did not contain any detailed descriptions of the place or time.

- 42) **On ne naît pas** raciste, on le devient. (62-HM:FR,509)  
*Rasistou se nerodíme, ale stáváme.* (62-HM:CZ,505)  
(‘**We Become Racist, We Are Not Born That Way.**’) (62-HM:EN,557)
- 43) Il disait à peu près qu' il ne fallait pas essayer de s'expliquer le spectacle de la peste, mais tenter d' apprendre ce **qu'on pouvait** en apprendre. (30-CA:FR,1168)  
*Řekl zhruba asi toto: není potřeba se pokoušet o vysvětlení morové rány, ale máme se snažit poučit se z ní, pokud **se můžeme poučit**.* (30-CA:CZ,1227)  
(‘He said more or less this: there is no need to try to explain the plague but we should try learn from it all that **we could learn** from it.’)

### Člověk

The noun *člověk*<sup>24</sup> had been expected to appear among the most frequent means of translating *on*. In our study, it was not the most frequent means but it still ranked very high in the results with 12 instances. *Člověk* is a counterpart of the English *man*, and the only 2 instances of this singular pronoun in English corresponded to the sentences translated by *člověk*. However, based on the character of *člověk*, we can claim that the noun is semantically closer to the English *you*; it was informal, non-restricted and mostly used in the present tense (ex. 44).

- 44) Il y a des animaux ainsi faits, ils ont beau être innocents et malheureux et tout, **on le sait, on leur en veut** quand même. (09-CLF:FR,1814)  
*Některá zvířata bývají taková: nic jim nepomáhá, že jsou nevinná a nešťastná a bůhvíco ještě; **člověk to ví, a přece je nemá rád.*** (09-CLF:CZ,2133)

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<sup>24</sup> In contrast to *man* and *men*, *člověk* was treated separately from *lidé* because it expresses different type of reference and thus deserves its own section.



(‘There are some animals like that: it does not help them that they’re innocent and unhappy and anything you please. **A man knows it and still doesn’t like them.**’)

6 examples also resembled the pseudo-generic narratives. These examples often included temporal (ex. 45) and conditional clauses or clauses of comparison (ex. 46). The distribution of *člověk*-translated sentences in the source texts was, nonetheless, more even than in the case of *you*; *člověk* was equally distributed across the four texts.

45) Une fois **qu'on est rentré** dans le monde du travail toutes les années se ressemblent.

(58-HM:FR,484)

*Jakmile se člověk zařadí do pracovního procesu, vypadá jeden rok jako druhý. (58-HM:CZ,477)*

(‘Once a **man enters** the world of working, all years look alike.’)

46) Je le regardai comme on regarde le Messie. (88-NO:FR, 171)

*Podívala jsem se na něj, jako se člověk dívá na Mesiáše. (88-NO:CZ,173)*

(‘I looked at him as a man looks at Messiah.’)

## 2nd person singular and plural

The 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular did not prove as dominant as in Dušková’s study (1999: 54) but rather rare with only one example from Céline’s novel. It was non-restricted and functioned as a description of a direction. The sentence was translated using *you* in English (ex. 47).

47) Et puis ayant atteint la porte, à l'octroi, **on passe encore** devant le bureau moisi où végète le petit employé vert. (02-CLF:FR,1348)

*A potom, když dojdeš k bráně, k potravní čáře, projdeš ještě kolem omšelé budky, v níž vegetuje scvrklý zelený akcizák. (02-CLF:CZ,1567)*

(‘**When you get** to the Porte and the toll station, **you pass** the stinking old office where the little green official is rotting away.’) (02-CLF:EN,1329)

The plural form was far more frequent with 6 occurrences that were all non-restricted. 4 of these examples were used in the same *on*-sentences as the English *you*. They resembled the pseudo-generic narration (ex. 48) and were equally coming from Céline’s and Nothmop’s homodiegetic narrations. Possibly, the narrators used the plural form intentionally to address all their readers. These sentences also contained conditional or temporal clauses starting with *quand* or *si*. (ex. 49).

48) Dans un pays où, jusqu’à il y a peu, contrat ou pas contrat, **on était engagé** forcément pour toujours, **on ne quittait pas** un emploi sans y mettre les formes. (76-NO:FR,841)

*V zemi, kde jste byli donedávna smlouva nesmlouva angažování jednoduše navždycky, se zaměstnání neopouští bez určitých forem. (76-NO:CZ, 841)*

(‘In a country in which until very recently, contract or no contract, **you were always hired** forever, **you did not leave a job** without following certain traditions.’) (76-NO:EN, 837)

- 49) **On ne sait** ce qu’est un excentrique si l’on n’a pas rencontré un excentrique nippon. (84-NO:FR,515)

***Dokud jste se nesetkali** s výstředním Japoncem, **nevíte**, co je to výstřední člověk.* (84-NO:CZ,514)

(‘**You don’t know** what eccentric means if you have not met an eccentric Japanese person.’)

### Other indefinite pronouns

The indefinite pronoun *nikdo* occurred twice in the Czech translations and expressed restricted and non-restricted reference (ex. 50).

- 50) Ce ne sont pas les crimes qui se comptent en ce monde... Il y a longtemps **qu'on y a renoncé**... (18-CLF:FR,334)

*Důležitý význam v lidském životě nemají zločiny... Těch si už dávno **nikdo nevšimá**...* (18-CLF:CZ,405)

(‘It is not crimes that are important in a person’s life... **No one has noticed** them for a long time now...’)

*Někdo* appeared only once. The reference of the example was restricted by a local specification and had a negative connotation of the powerful ‘others’ that control us (ex. 51).

- 51) A l’intérieur même de la ville, **on eut l’idée** d’isoler certains quartiers particulièrement éprouvés (...) (29-CA:FR,963)

***Někdo připadl na myšlenku**, aby se i uvnitř města izolovaly některé zvlášť postižené čtvrti (...)* (29-CA:CZ,1014)

(‘**Someone had the idea** to isolate extremely affected quarters even inside of the city.’)

*Kdo* is a shorter variant, which was inclusive and represented restricted reference (ex. 52).

- 52)(...) dans ce quartier où les gens vivaient toujours sur leur seuil, toutes les portes étaient fermées et les persiennes closes, sans **qu'on pût savoir** si c’était de la peste ou du soleil (...) (41-CA:FR,537)

*V těchto čtvrtích, kde lidé byli zvyklí žít an ulici, byla všechna vrata zavřena, všechny žaluzie stažené, aniž **kdo mohl říci**, zda se tím chrání před morem nebo před vedrem.* (41-CA:EN,586)

### Lidé

The noun *lidé* was present in only 3 sentences. It functioned similarly to the English noun *people*, and 2 *on*-sentences that translated into Czech by *lidé* were rendered using *people* in English. There was one sentence that was non-restricted (ex. 53), the other two were restricted by the context (ex. 54). Like the noun *people*, *lidé* seemed to express the distance of the narrator as if he or she was excluded even from the non-restricted reference. This might be caused by the grammatical concord with the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural which is inherently exclusive

of the speaker and might transfer the same meaning onto *lidé* even though every human being is part of this reference.

- 53) **On fait tout** pour leur plaire et tout le monde est bien content. (11-CLF:FR,1577)  
*Lidi se snaží, aby jim dělali všechno po chuti, a obě strany jsou spokojené.* (11-CLF:CZ,1870)  
(‘**People do all they can** to please them, and everybody's happy.’) (11-CLF:EN,1580)
- 54) Dès le début du printemps, on l'avait beaucoup vu sur les plages, nageant souvent et avec un plaisir manifeste. (48-CA:FR, 137)  
*Hned z jara ho vidali lidé hodně na plážích, jak se zjevnou radostí a často plave.* (48-CA:CZ, 145)  
(‘From the beginning of the spring, people used to see him on the beaches where he often swam with evident joy.’)

### Other nominal devices

Apart from the generic nouns, such as *člověk* or *lidé* there was also one example of translating *on* using a specific noun *život* (‘life’). As in the French original, blaming the life corresponded to blaming of the negative society that controls us (ex. 55).

- 55) On se rend alors compte où **qu'on vous a mis.** (24-CLF:FR,1107)  
*To si potom uvědomujete, kam vás to život strčil.* (24-CLF:CZ,1279)  
(‘Then you realize **where the life has put you.**’)

### 4.2.2 Covert counterparts

#### Reflexive form of the verb

The reflexive form of the verb had been expected to be the most frequent device of rendering *on* into Czech; in our analysis, it was the second most frequent means with 15 examples. The examples were very diverse and confirmed the statement that the reflexive form is neutral and can be used in a variety of contexts (Dušková, 1999: 63). The reflexive appeared inclusive or exclusive and expressed non-restricted or restricted reference. The majority of 15 cases were, nonetheless, of the non-restricted reference, and 8 of them were in the present tense (ex. 56). Sentences translated by the reflexive were mostly rendered by *you* and the passive in English. Like with *you*, the examples contained conditional clauses (ex. 56) or clauses of comparison (ex. 57). Most of these examples were informal. There were only 2 examples of formal phrases that included modal verbs and were similar to the English passive (ex.58).

- 56) Ah! si c'était un tremblement de terre! Une bonne secousse et on n'en parle plus... **On compte les morts, les vivants,** et le tour est joué. (45-CA:FR,542)  
*Ach! Kdyby to aspoň bylo zemětřesení! Pořádný otřes a je pokoj... Spočítají se mrtví a živí, a je to vyřízené.* (45-CA:CZ,571)

(‘Ah! Only if it was an earthquake! One solid quake and then it’s over... **The dead and the living reflexive particle count** and it’s done with.’)

57) Les employés des divers bureaux m’accueillirent comme on accueille un sportif. (91-NO:FR,131)

*Zaměstnanci různých kanceláří mě vítali, jako se vítá nějaký sportovec. (91-NO:CZ,132)*

(‘The employees of diverse offices welcomed me **as reflexive particle welcomes** a sportsman.’)

58) **Pouvait-on assimiler** Jésus à Krishna, ou sinon à quoi?

*Dá se Ježíš ztotožnit s Krišnou, a jestli ne, tak s čím?*

(‘**Is possible reflexive particle assimilate** Jesus with Krishna? And if not, what with?’)

The restricted examples including the reflexive form of the verb were always subjectful. They were either very specific or quite vague. In one case, the sentence included negative reference to the outer force (ex. 59).

59) **On tolérait** seulement qu’ils vissent à la porte du cimetière et, encore, cela n’était pas official. (40-CA:FR,975)

*Dovolovalo se jim pouze, aby přišli ke vchodu na hřbitov, a to ještě bylo neoficiální. (40-CA:CZ,1026)*

(‘**It reflexive particle allowed them** only to come to the cemetery entrance and even that was unofficial.’)

### **Inanimate replacement**

The syntactic transposition common for English also proved very frequent in Czech and was even the second most frequent covert correspondence with 13 examples. In most of these, the object replaced the subject of the original sentence. In 3 cases, the sentences were translations of the sensory verb *entendre* (ex. 60). This verb, preceded by *on* in French, was transformed to the agentless construction using the intransitive verb *ozvat se* (‘resound’). Two of these sentences were rendered into English using agentless constructions as well, which shows a tendency in both languages to avoid the explicit general human agent with sensory verbs. Most of the transformed sentences were restricted by a specific time (ex. 60) or place (ex. 61).

60) Il se passa environ deux minutes, puis **on entendit**, venant de la chambre, **une sorte de miaulement ou de hurlement**. (65-HM:FR,224)

*Uběhly zhruba dvě minuty a pak se z pokoje ozvalo jakési vyjeknutí či zavytí. (65-HM:CZ,226)*

(‘About two minutes passed and then **some kind of a squeak or howl** came from the room.’)

61) Plusieurs entreprises de haute technologie se sont installées en profitant des réductions de charges sociales et d'impôts - dans la région on a Roche et Lilly. (61-HM:FR,794)

*Usídlila se tu řada high - techových firem, které využily srážek na sociálním pojištění a na daních - v naší oblasti sídlí Roche a Lilly.* (61-HM:CZ,788)

(‘Several hi-tech companies set up here and took advantage of the tax breaks and the low social-security payments. **Roche and Lilly took residence in our region.**’)

7 sentences included copular verbs. In 4 of these sentences we could see the original verb in the French sentence transformed into a qualifying adjective (ex. 62). In some, the infinitive was also used as the subject while the verb remained in the third person singular form (ex. 63).

62) Elle entreprit même d’aller s’y brosser les dents deux fois par jour: **on n’imagine pas les conséquences bénéfiques** de sa haine sur son hygiène bucco-dentaire. (77-NO:FR,728)

*Dokonce si tam chodila dvakrát denně čistit zuby: blahodárné důsledky této zášti na její ústní a zubní hygienu jsou nepředstavitelné.* (77-NO:CZ,729)

(‘She even went there two times a day to brush her teeth. **The beneficial effects** that her hatred was having on her dental hygiene **are unimaginable.**’)

63) Pour un temps triste et confidential **on ne pouvait pas mieux désirer** que le temps qu’il faisait dehors. (15-CLF:FR,1592)

*Pokud se týká ponurého, k důvěrnostem vhodného počasí, nebylo možné přát si něco lepšího, než jak venku bylo.* (15-CLF:CZ,1887)

(‘When it comes to gloomy weather fit for intimacy, it was impossible to wish for something better than we had at the moment.’)

### Periphrastic passive

Czech periphrastic passive was with 5 examples far less frequent than the English passive. This is probably caused by the literary uncolloquial aspect of the Czech passive (Dušková, 1999: 56) in contrast to its more used English variant. In our excerpt, the periphrastic passive appeared even in a colloquial context but in that case, it transformed the French expression so much that it lost its vulgarity completely (ex. 64). 4 examples corresponded to those translated by the passive in English. These could be divided into restricted examples and non-restricted formal expressions, which contained the modal verb *pouvoir* expressing extrinsic modality (ex. 65).

64) Mme Herote sut mettre à bon profit les dernières licences qu'**on avait encore de baiser debout** et pas cher. (03-CLF:FR,348)

*Paní Herotová dovedla dobře využít toho, že bylo ještě dovoleno pomilovat se narychlo a za laciný peníz.* (03-CLF:CZ,420)

(‘Mme Herote knew how to take advantage of the fact that it was still allowed to make love to someone quickly and cheaply.’)

65) Cet effort hasardeux, (...) **on peut le comparer** aux travaux de Cantor établissant une typologie de l’infini en acte, ou aux efforts de Gottlob Frege pour redéfinir les fondements de la logique. (75-HM:FR,838)

*Tento riskantní, samotářský počin, (...) může být přirovnán ke Cantorově práci na typologii nekonečných množin nebo k úsilí Gottloba Fregeho nově definovat základy logiky. (75-HM:FR,838)*

(‘This risky, solitary labor (...) **It can be compared** to Georg Cantor’s work to establish a typology of the infinite, which created set theory, or the work of Gottlob Frege, which redefined the basis of logic.’) (75-HM:EN,897)

The restricted examples resembled the character of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural. They referred to a defined group of people set in a specific context (ex. 66) but were rather specific, not vague nor negative as some of the referents of *they* or the English passive.

66) D’ailleurs, l’épidémie sembla reculer et, pendant quelques jours, **on compta** une dizaine de morts seulement. (44-CA:FR,382)

*Ostatně se zdálo, že epidemie ustupuje, a po několik dnů bylo napačítáno pouze asi deset mrtvých. (44-CA:CZ,405)*

(‘Moreover, the epidemic seemed to be on the wane; on some days only **ten or so deaths were notified.**’) (44-CA:EN,413)

### Subjectless constructions

Apart from the reflexive, there were also 2 cases of the subjectless constructions that are impossible in English. There was the ‘*je + infinitive*’ structure used with sensory verbs and without any agent expressed (ex. 67). In this *on*-sentence, English too chose an agentless construction, the passive voice. The ex. (70) included the construction ‘*jít o + noun*’.

67) **On les voyait se hâter** par les rues, courbés en avant, un mouchoir ou la main sur la bouche. (46-CA:FR,961)

*Bylo vidět, jak pospíchají po ulicích, sehnuti, s kapesníkem nebo s rukou na ústech. (46-CA:CZ,1012)*

(‘Was see how they rushed on the streets, bent down, covering their mouths with a hand or a handkerchief.’)

68) Dans Le Meilleur des mondes il s’agit d’anxiolytiques et d’antidépresseurs; dans Île **on a plutôt affaire** à la méditation, les drogues psychédéliques, quelques vagues éléments de religiosité hindoue. (53-HM:FR,410)

*V Konci civilizace máš anxiolytika a antidepresiva; v Ostrově jde spíš o meditaci, psychedelické drogy, pár věcí z hinduistického náboženství. (53-HM:CZ,403)*

(‘In Brave New World you have tranquilizers and antidepressants, in Island is about meditation, psychedelics drugs and some things from Hindu religion.’)

### 4.3 Comparison of the English and Czech translation counterparts

Despite the fact that both languages are typologically different, they seem to function similarly when it comes to their translation of *on* in the four novels. In both languages, an agentless construction ranked high in the frequency table (English passive, Czech reflexive and inanimate replacement), and was followed by personal pronouns (or verbal endings in Czech). The main difference in the use of personal pronouns was in the contrast of the frequency of the English *you* and the Czech 2<sup>nd</sup> person. The frequency of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural were similar in both languages. These pronouns were followed by generic nouns, such as *people* or *člověk*, where the latter was exceptionally frequent in the Czech translations. In addition, we could mention the significant presence of *there*-sentences in English.

There were, however, differences between the counterparts of the same class; the agentless English passive and Czech reflexive differed in their expression of reference, which was restricted in the passive and mostly non-restricted with the reflexive. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person in English and Czech also differed significantly and *there*-sentences did not have a translation counterpart in Czech at all. Yet, the most frequent devices of Czech and English seemed to create groups of certain language means that would appear in specific contexts. For example, the English passive, *they*, the Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and the reflexive form of the verb were often used as translation of the same French sentences. Similarly, the numerous instances of *on*, translated using *you* in English, were usually translated with *člověk*, the reflexive or the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural in Czech. Analysing the most frequent translation equivalents of *on* and their shared context could thus lead to some information about their distribution.

#### 4.3.1 Correspondences between English and Czech <sup>25</sup>

When comparing the English and Czech translation counterparts, we considered only those that shared the same source *on*-sentences at least three times. Even though larger data might prove that even fewer instances are of importance, we would not be able to draw any conclusions. For example, *there*-sentences were quite frequent with 6 instances but these sentences had diverse Czech counterparts, and thus could not be included in the analysis. In the case of inanimate replacement, there were found corresponding uses but there was no visible pattern in them and they seemed rather a result of the creativity of the translator, since they represent a complete transformation of the original French sentence.

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<sup>25</sup> Correspondence here means the case where an English and a Czech translation counterpart were used to translate the same *on*-sentence.

### ***Congruent correspondences***

Table 6 displays the means of translating the general human agent in English and Czech which appeared as translations of the same *on*-sentences and functioned similarly in terms of inclusiveness and exclusiveness of the speaker, or in expressing non-restricted or restricted reference.

	CZECH	periph. passive	2 <sup>nd</sup> p.	1 <sup>st</sup> p. pl.	3 <sup>rd</sup> p. plural	reflex. form	člověk	other	TOTAL
ENGLISH	passive	4	x	x	15	3	x	3	26
	<i>you</i>	x	5	4	x	4	6	2	21
	<i>we</i>	x	x	5	x	x	x	1	6
	<i>they</i>	x	x	1	5	1	x	3	10
	other <sup>26</sup>	2	2	2	4	7	6	x	22
TOTAL	6	7	12	24	15	12	9	x	

Table 6: Mutual correspondences of English and Czech translations

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> person plural**

The 1<sup>st</sup> person plural is an inclusive and either non-restricted or restricted device in both languages. It was twice as frequent in Czech and the corresponding *on*-sentences that were not translated using *we* were in 4 non-restricted causes translated using *you*. This correlation proves that the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural seems more versatile in Czech and closer to the neutral *you*.

#### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> person**

The English *you* seemed very neutral and appeared in contexts where Czech preferred other devices. While both were found in non-restricted sentences in which the narrator used conditional, temporal and comparative clauses, *you* also occurred in rather formal passages. These were typically set expressions that included the modal verb *pouvoir* ('can').

#### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural**

The Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and *they* appeared in almost identical situations. They were always exclusive and restricted except for one exception in the English translation. The reason for the rather low mutual correspondence was caused by the correlation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Czech and the passive in English, which will be discussed later.

<sup>26</sup> 'other' in Table 6 refers to the instances where a given language means corresponded to a different counterpart than those that are listed in the table.



## Passive

Although Czech passive has a more formal connotation and is far less frequent than in English, in our texts almost all Czech examples correlated with the English passive.

### *Divergent correspondences*

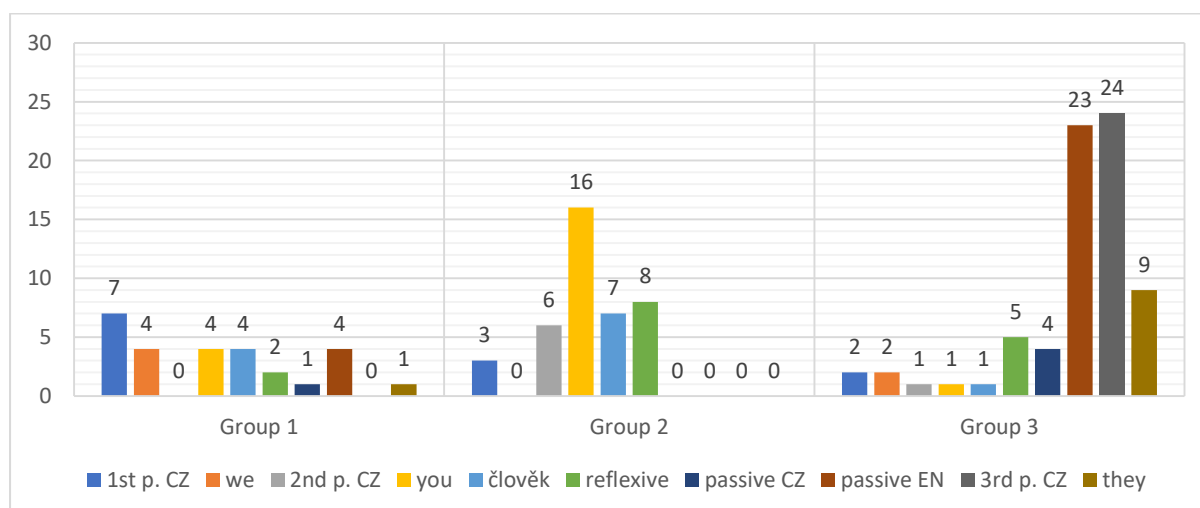
#### ***You, člověk and the reflexive form***

The Czech translations of *on* corresponding to those rendered by *you* were very diverse. This English pronoun appeared in various contexts and the Czech correspondences of these included informal noun *člověk*, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person and the reflexive form. The sentences including these means also often resembled pseudo-generic narratives that contained temporal, conditional or comparative clauses.

#### **Passive, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and the reflexive form**

The English sentences with *they* and the passive as well as the Czech ones with the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural, periphrastic passive and the reflexive form were means which made it possible to avoid expressing the agent either because it represents the negative ‘others’ or because the speaker decided there was no need to specify it explicitly.

### **Mutual correspondence and discrepancy**



Plot 1: Correspondences of the English and Czech translation counterparts

Based on these correspondences between the most frequent English and Czech translation counterparts, we were able to construct 3 groups of correspondence that had similar formal characteristics, expressed the same type of reference and appeared in similar contexts. The Plot 1 demonstrates that these correspondences were quite diverse with the predominance of the Czech 1<sup>st</sup> person plural for the first group. English *you*, the Czech 2<sup>nd</sup> person, *člověk* and the reflexive form of the verb were most prominent in the second group, while *they*, the

English passive, the Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural, the periphrastic passive and the reflexive were most frequent in the third group. The context in which they appeared was studied carefully and led to a conclusion that there are three subtypes of the generic reference, which will be presented in Section 4.3.2.

#### 4.3.2 Generic reference and its subtypes

##### Purely generic non-restricted reference

The first subtype represents purely generic examples expressing non-restricted reference. 11 of these sentences featured themes such as life, general truths or death and were clearly statements about all humanity, as the speaker talked about prototypical human behaviour using declarative sentences (ex. 70). There was no attempt to restrict the reference using adverbials or modifying subordinate clauses; usually, only the adverb *toujours* appeared (ex. 69). In addition, there were 8 sentences which included modals and expressed extrinsic modality of possibility. These also appeared without any restricting context (ex. 71). Given our source, the sentences usually represented the voice of the distant narrator who summarized and judged the actions of the novel (ex. 72).

Altogether there were 19 examples of this reference in our excerpt. Although these sentences were specified by the above given features, Plot 1 demonstrates that only the frequency of the Czech 1<sup>st</sup> person plural seemed dominant with 7 cases of occurrence. The frequencies of the other language means were not significant. The sentences were not particular in their use of tenses or verbs either, except for the modal verb *pouvoir* which occurred 6 times. The 4 instances of the English passive were to be found exclusively with this verb (ex. 71, ex. 72).

69) **On ne peut pas toujours** tendre sa volonté et toujours se raidir, et c'est un bonheur que de délier enfin, dans l'effusion, cette gerbe de forces tressées pour la lutte. (28-CA:FR,1367)

*Člověk nemůže žít ve věčném vypětí vůle, nemůže se věčně vzpínat a je šťasten, když konečně dá volný průchod silám, ukutým k boji.* (28-CA:CZ,1430)

**No man can live** on the stretch all the time, with his energy and will-power strained to the breaking-point, and it is a joy to be able to relax at last and loosen nerves and muscles that were braced for the struggle. (28-CA:EN,1437)

70) C'est une grande chose que de savoir quand **on va mourir**. (78-NO:FR,492)

*Vědět, kdy umřeme, je velká věc.* (78-NO:CZ,492)

It is a very great thing to know when **you are going to die**, Fubuki. (78-NO:EN,492)

71) Par exemple, **on peut citer** l'apparition du christianisme. (54-HM:FR,7)

*Příkladem **může být** vznik křesťanství. (54-HM:CZ,7)*

The rise of Christianity **might be cited** as an example. (54-HM:EN,5)

72) **On ne pouvait** cependant **pas lui reprocher** d'avoir trop travaillé car, aux yeux d'un Japonais, on ne travaille jamais trop. (89-NO:FR,564)

*Nicméně **se jí nedalo vytknout**, že příliš usilovně pracuje, neboť v očích Japonce nikdy nepracujete příliš. (89-NO:EN,567)*

**She could not**, however, **be reproached** for working too hard because, in the eyes of the Japanese, you can never work too hard. (89-NO:EN,567)

### Conditioned generic non-restricted reference

The second group could be also considered part of the generic non-restricted reference. These statements were less generic than those in the previous group because the speaker did not make statements about all humanity but gave examples of situations and specific contexts which a person could experience. Many of these sentences resembled the pseudo-generic narratives. This was mostly done using the conditional clauses, temporal clauses and clauses of comparison starting with *quand* (ex. 74), *si* and *comme* (ex. 73), respectively. The high occurrence of these clauses with *you*, *člověk* and the reflexive was already mentioned in the analytical part. There were also instances of the generic adverbial clauses, such as *dans le cas de*, *dans ces moments* or *dans un camping* which functioned similarly to the conditional clauses and expressed possible situations of a human life (ex. 75). Since they were either indefinite or very generic, we could distinguish them from the adverbials used in the sentences of restricted reference.

There were 26 examples of this reference, making it the second most frequent in our data. In the translations of these sentences the English *you* predominated with 16 examples. The Czech reflexive form followed with 8 examples, *člověk* with 7 examples and the Czech 2<sup>nd</sup> person with 6 examples. Since they were often conditional or temporal sentences, they were translated using the present simple tense.

73) **On cède au bruit comme on cède à la guerre.** (17-CLF:FR,1049)

*Člověk se tomu hřmotu podrobuje stejně jako válce. (17-CLF:CZ,1211)*

**You give in to noise as you give in to war.** (17-CLF:EN,1041)

74) **Quand on se jette d'un trait du haut de la Tour Eiffel on doit sentir** des choses comme ça. (19-CLF:FR,157)

*Když člověk skočí z Eiffelovky, jistě cítí taky něco takového. (19-CLF:CZ,186)*

**You must feel** pretty much the same way **when you jump off** the top of the Eiffel Tower. (19-CLF:EN,182)

- 75) Dans les cas de décès **on a toujours tendance** à dire une connerie de ce genre (...) (57-HM:FR,781)  
*V případě úmrtí máme vždy sklon k podobným žvástům (...)* (57-HM:CZ,775)  
When death occurs **people tend to say shit** like that (...) (57-HM:EN, 840)

### Contextually defined generic restricted reference

These sentences could be easily distinguished from the previous groups because they were all expressions of the restricted reference and they were exclusive of the speaker. They could be very broad and refer to the society which was often viewed as negative (ex. 76), or they could be focused on a very specific social group (ex. 78). The broad sentences had a special structure in which the French *on* was followed by a different personal pronoun (ex. 76, ex. 77), while there was more context provided in the restricted examples (ex. 78, ex. 79).

This group was the largest as it included 54 examples, which corresponds to the number of restricted sentences in our excerpt. 24 examples were translated using the Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural, followed by 23 instances of the English passive voice. *They* was used 9 times and the Czech reflexive, which proved more prominent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, appeared 5 times. The Czech passive was used in 4 examples. Although inanimate replacement was excluded from this part of analysis, it is worth saying that it occurred with the highest frequency in this group.

- 76) **On nous considère** déjà tous solidement comme des voleurs, de toutes les manières! (10-CLF:FR,782)  
*Stejně se na nás na všechny dívají jako na zloděje, ať děláš co děláš (...)* (10-CLF:CZ,909)  
**They take us** all for thieves anyway! (10-CLF:EN,793)
- 77) **On conspire contre son idéal** depuis sa plus tendre enfance. (95-NO:FR,533)  
*Od jejího nejtělejšího dětství se spiknou proti jejím ideálům.* (95-NO:CZ,532)  
**Society conspires against her** from her earliest infancy. (95-NO:EN,534)
- 78) Mais **on m'avait** quand même retrouvée endormie sous le contenu de la poubelle. (82-NO:FR,514)  
*Nicméně mě našli, jak spím zasypaná obsahem koše na odpadky.* (82-NO:CZ,513)  
**But I had after all been found** asleep under the contents of a wastebasket. (82-NO:EN,514)
- 79) À ce moment **on entendit**, dans le lointain, la sonnerie du passage à niveau. (63-HM:FR,788)  
*V tu chvíli se z dálky ozval zvonek železničního přejezdu.* (63-HM:CZ,782)  
At that moment they heard the bells at the train crossing ringing in the distance. (63-HM:EN,847)

## 5. Conclusion

The aim of the thesis was to analyse impersonal expressions of the general human agent in English and Czech. This was done using the English and Czech translations of the French pronoun *on* which served as a marker of the general human agent. Since neither English nor Czech has a direct equivalent to *on*, we studied their diverse translation counterparts and how they are employed. Based on this analysis, we hoped to establish variables that affect the choice of the individual translation counterparts in English and Czech and that would allow us to predict what impersonal strategy will be used in a given context. 100 examples were excerpted from 4 French novels together with their English and Czech translations and they were carefully sorted and analysed.

The results of the analysis mostly corresponded to the presumptions stated in the theoretical part, which claimed that both languages use primarily overt means of translating the French impersonal *on*. However, in contrast to the findings of the past studies on impersonals, the difference in frequencies of the overt and covert means of translating *on* was not as significant and we could say that both strategies are employed evenly. In English overt means constituted 55% of the translations, in Czech it was slightly more, 63% of the examples. 43% were congruent counterparts in English and 47% in Czech.

The English personal pronouns were employed according to our expectations. There was 21% of sentences with *you*, 10% with *they* and 6% of *we*, while *one* occurred only in 3% of the text. The high frequency of *you*, nonetheless, demonstrated that it can have a much wider use than just as a colloquial means of expressing general human agency. In our material, it appeared even in some formal contexts.

In contrast, the distribution of the pronouns in Czech was more surprising. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural did appear as the most frequent translation counterpart with 24% of the sentences but it was followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural with 12%, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> person occurred only in 7% of the examples. Moreover, the 2<sup>nd</sup> plural proved to be the more prominent variant in our texts. The context of the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural was, like in the case of *you*, more varied and not solely formal. The noun *člověk* also appeared very high in the frequency table with 12%.

Regarding the covert correspondences of *on*, the English passive and Czech reflexive were predictable. The reflexive appeared in 15% of the examples but the passive proved much more frequent with 27% of occurrence and showed that it is not used in formal language only. Surprisingly, the inanimate replacement followed as the second most frequent counterpart in both languages, with 13% in Czech and 8% in English. This structure was

considered a very minor possibility in expressing the general human agent but it proved to be very popular. This is probably because it functions similarly to the passive construction and allows the inanimate object to shift from a post-verbal position to the position of the subject, while the agent remains unexpressed. To avoid the agent, English also used *there*-sentences in 6% of the examples, the same amount as the Czech periphrastic passive.

Apart from some minor differences, both languages seemed to show two evenly distributed tendencies in their expressions of the general human agent. The first tendency was to copy the syntactic structure of the original French sentence and use an overt translation counterpart to replace *on*. In majority of cases, this counterpart was a congruent personal pronoun. The second tendency was to avoid expressing the general human agent completely and transform the sentence to an agentless construction. Those included the passive or the reflexive form of the verb. Moreover, we saw a surprisingly prominent use of the inanimate replacement in both languages. In most cases, these two tendencies copied the distribution of restricted and non-restricted reference, as the overt means were usually non-restricted while the covert means were restricted.

There was also unexpectedly high degree of correspondence between the English and Czech translations of *on* which cooccurred in the identical *on*-sentences. This resulted in defining 3 groups of correspondent translation counterparts sharing the same context. The Czech 1<sup>st</sup> person plural was the only dominant translation counterpart in the first group but the second group showed high frequencies of the English *you*, the Czech reflexive form of the verb, *člověk* and the Czech 2<sup>nd</sup> person. The English passive, *they*, the Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural, the periphrastic passive and also the reflexive form proved significantly frequent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group. The cooccurrence of these forms in certain passages demonstrated that there are not 2 but 3 subtypes of the generic reference which range in their degree of universality from statements of purely generic reference to those referring only to a relatively small group of people. In the middle, there is a type of reference conditioned by possible situations using the conditional, temporal or comparative clauses. This group also often includes pseudo-generic narrative of a homodiegetic narrator.

This division of the generic reference into three subtypes thus represents three types of contexts that seem to have an impact on the choice of the translation counterpart used in English and Czech. A thorough analysis of these contexts led to establishing 6 variables that proved very conspicuous and that could affect the choice of the impersonal strategies in English and Czech. These variables are the type of reference (restricted, non-restricted), type

of clause (either conditional, temporal or comparative), presence of a definite adverbial of place, *on* followed by a personal pronoun, presence of modality and the type of narrator (homodiegetic or heterodiegetic). 5 of these were tested for their impact on the use of most frequent language means in English and Czech using the Fisher's exact test.<sup>27</sup>

The null hypotheses that could not be rejected claimed that the presence of an adverbial of place or modality do not have an impact on the choice of the impersonal strategies in English or Czech. We discovered that even though they were very frequent, the uses of the English passive and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Czech did not seem to correlate with the presence of a definite adverbial of place. The presence of modality was tested for its impact on the use of the English passive, which seemed prominent in this type of context. However, modality did not prove to be affecting the use of the passive either.

The null hypotheses that were rejected, though, stated that the type of narrator, presence of the personal pronoun after *on*, or the presence of either a conditional, temporal or a comparative clause do not have an impact on the choice of the impersonal strategies in English or Czech. To prove the alternative hypothesis that the type of clause does have an impact, we added together the frequencies of the conditional, temporal and comparative clauses and tested their influence on the use of the most frequent language means of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group (*you*, the Czech reflexive and *člověk*). The Czech counterparts did not seem to be influenced by these clauses but the correspondence between the clauses and *you* proved extremely statistically significant resulting in the p-value 0.0001.

The type of the narrator was tested using the frequencies of the most recurrent translation counterparts. Since Céline's and Nothomp's novels included homodiegetic narrators, who tend to use pseudo-generic narratives, we tested them for any significant difference in their frequencies of *you*, the Czech reflexive form and *člověk*. The final results were similar to the preceding test. While the frequencies of the Czech translation counterparts did not prove significant, the presence of *you* was significant with the p-value 0.012. To test also the opposite, we tried to find correlation between the heterodiegetic narrators of Camus' and Houellebecq's novels, the English passive and the Czech 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural. Especially in Camus's *La Peste*, the number of restricted examples was rather high so we expected a possible correlation. The results, however, did not show any significant difference.

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<sup>27</sup> The presence of the restricted or non-restricted reference was not tested because it clearly affects all translation counterparts and each type can be described as expressing rather restricted or non-restricted reference.

The final variable represented the impact of the personal pronoun following *on* on the use of the frequent exclusive restricted translation counterparts, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural in Czech and the passive in English. This tendency was already mentioned in Section 2.2.3 and confirmed by our test results with a p-value 0.0001 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural and 0.0008 for the passive.

Although not all 5 variables proved to be affecting the choice of the impersonal strategies in English and Czech, their obvious correlation with certain language means leaves room for future studies that could work with a larger amount of data and lead to more positive results. It is also possible that the variables could have been better defined. We tried to formally describe them as simply as possible so that they would be searchable in the corpus manager. In consequence, certain examples that could have had an impact had to be excluded. It would thus be worth to try redefining these variables and test them again.

As it concerns the results for the English *you*, we see that there is a clear connection between the use of this pronoun and the use of the narration that is similar to the pseudo-generic narrative and that includes conditional, temporal or comparative clauses. The feature is so representative of this type of discourse that it is even prominent in the homodiegetic novels. The reason for this correlation may be the inherent meaning of *you*, which is an address to the listener and which is closely connected to the attempt of the pseudo-generic narrator to pass on personal experiences onto the whole audience. Although this function is lost when *you* becomes generic, it seems somehow retained in its use as an expression of the general human agent. It is also likely that this feature is prominent only in prose where the narrator typically talks to the readers. Consequently, it would be interesting to test for the same results in the spoken language.

The results of our study mostly confirmed the distribution of the expressions of the general human agent in English and Czech as proposed in the theoretical part. Moreover, certain variables that affect the choice of translation counterparts of *on* were established and can allow us to partially predict what language means will be used in different contexts. We hope that these results demonstrated the usefulness of comparative studies, which can highlight features that could be otherwise unnoticed. The general human agent and the generic reference proved that the possibilities of its interpretation and classification are various and worth studying again in more detail. This thesis of relatively small scope might be a good starting point of a study working with a larger amount of data.



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## 7. Resumé / Shrnutí v českém jazyce

Cílem práce bylo zkoumat anglické a české překladové protějšky francouzského zájmena *on*. Toto zájmeno je často označováno jako osobní a neurčité, protože může vyjadřovat generickou nebo negenerickou určitou referenci. V naší práci jsme se zabývali pouze příklady, kde bylo použito generické *on*, které vyjadřovalo všeobecného lidského konatele. Jelikož ani angličtina ani čeština nemají žádný přímý překladový korelát francouzského *on*, využívají k vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele různé jazykové prostředky, které mají primárně jinou funkci. Právě tyto jazykové prostředky a důvody k jejich výběru v daném kontextu byly předmětem našeho zkoumání.

Práce byla formálně rozdělena do osmi kapitol. Stručný úvod představuje zkoumanou problematiku a cíl práce. Následuje druhá, teoretická kapitola, která zmiňuje výsledky dosavadního výzkumu. V této kapitole je definován pojem všeobecný lidský konatel a popsány druhy generické reference. Zároveň je charakterizováno francouzské zájmeno *on* a všechny jeho způsoby užití. Z těchto tří způsobů jsou vymezeny dva: generický nerestriktivní a generický restriktivní, kterými se zabývá naše práce. Negenerické využití zájmena nebylo předmětem naší studie. Kromě zájmena *on* kapitola představuje obvyklé anglické a české prostředky vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele, jak byly uvedeny a zkoumány v sekundární literatuře. Tyto prostředky jsou rozděleny na explicitní a implicitní. Závěrem kapitola uvádí předpokládané překladové protějšky zájmena *on* na základě anglických a českých prostředků popsaných sekundárními zdroji.

Třetí kapitola uvádí materiál, ze kterého bylo čerpáno 100 zkoumaných francouzských dokladů obsahujících *on* a jejich anglické a české překlady. Tyto věty byly excerpovány ze čtyř francouzských románů a jejich překladů. To byly následující: *Mor* A. Camuse, *Cesta do hlubin noci* F. L. Céline, *Elementární částice* M. Houellebecqa a *Strach a chvění* A. Nothomp. Z každého románu bylo použito 25 náhodných vět, které obsahovaly generické zájmeno *on* a měly překladový protějšek v anglickém a českém překladu. Příklady byly excerpovány pomocí korpusového manažeru KonText v rámci InterCorpu verze 10.

Čtvrtá kapitola obsahuje samotnou analýzu zkoumaných dokladů. Tato kapitola je rozdělena na tři hlavní podkapitoly. První podkapitola zkoumá anglické jazykové protějšky. Ty jsou rozděleny na explicitní kongruentní, explicitní divergentní a implicitní protějšky. Každý prostředek je popsán z hlediska morfologie, sémantiky a stylistiky. Frekvence jednotlivých prostředků jsou uvedeny v tabulkách a rozhodují o seřazení jazykových protějšků v rámci kapitoly. Stejný postup je aplikován v druhé podkapitole, která se zabývá českými protějšky.

Zde je popis jazykových korelátů obohacen o možnost porovnání s anglickými výsledky. Obecné porovnání výsledků v obou jazycích je však obsahem až třetí podkapitoly. Zde jsou porovnány nejčastější anglické a české jazykové koreláty francouzského *on* společně s určením překladů, které si navzájem odpovídají a objevují se jako překlady stejných francouzských vět. Na základě těchto výsledků byly identifikovány druhy vět a reference, které jsou překládány obdobnými jazykovými protějšky v obou jazycích a které vypovídají o vlivu kontextu na výběr překladového protějšku v angličtině nebo v češtině.

Výsledky analýzy jsou uvedeny v páté kapitole. Všechny prostředky překládání generického *on* a vyjadřování všeobecného lidského konatele v angličtině a češtině jsou zde shrnuty a okomentovány.

Analýza potvrzuje přítomnost očekávaných překladových protějšků, jak byly shrnuty v teoretické části a jak je uvádí sekundární literatura. Byly to zejména explicitní překladové ekvivalenty francouzského *on*, které tvořily 55 % překladů v angličtině a 63 % v češtině. Většina z nich byla kongruentní vůči francouzskému *on*; v angličtině to bylo 43 %, v češtině 47 % protějšků.

Mezi nejčastější anglické kongruentní jazykové protějšky patří osobní zájmena. *You* bylo druhým nejčastějším překladovým ekvivalentem *on* s 21 % příkladů. Toto zájmeno bylo oproti předpokladům v teoretické části použito v různých kontextech a nevyskytovalo se pouze v kolokviálních pasážích, ale i ve formálních větách. Ve frekvenční tabulce následovala zájmena *they* s 10 % a *we* s 6 %. Neurčité zájmeno *one*, které je často považováno za nejbližší ekvivalent francouzského *on*, bylo použito pouze ve 3 % příkladů, stejně jako ostatní neurčitá zájmena *no one* a *anyone*. Z divergentních protějšků se nejčastěji vyskytovala podstatná jména *people* s 6 % a *man/men* s 3 %. Ve 4 % příkladů byla použita substantiva označující profesi nebo skupinu lidí, na kterou zájmeno *on* odkazovalo.

Co se týče implicitních jazykových prostředků, pasivum se umístilo jako nejfrekventovanější anglický protějšek *on* s 27 % dokladů. Vyskytovalo se nejen ve formálních pasážích, ale také v kolokviálním jazyce, což způsobilo jeho neočekávaně vysokou frekvenci. Po pasivu následovala speciální struktura, tzv. 'nahrazení neživotným členem', ve které se nejčastěji neživotný předmět přesunul z post-verbální pozice do pozice podmětu, zatímco původní agens zůstal nevyjádřený. Tento druh syntaktického posunu byl velmi frekventovaný a poukázal na častou tendenci překladů vyhýbat se explicitnímu vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele. Mezi další neagentní struktury patřilo 6 % vět s *there* a 2 % vět

s anticipačním a anaforickým *it*. Nahrazení pomocí přičestí přítomného se vyskytlo pouze jednou.

České jazykové protějšky *on* obsahovaly obdobné výsledky, co se týče vysoké frekvence osobních zájmen a jistých neagentních struktur. Nejčastějším zájmenem a zároveň nejčastějším vyjádřením všeobecného lidského konatele byla 3. osoba množného čísla s 24 % příkladů. Toto zájmeno, stejně jako všechna ostatní bylo vyjádřeno pouze ve slovesné koncovce. Po 3. osobě následovala 1. osoba množného čísla s 12 %. Tato nadměrně vysoká frekvence byla, podobně jako u *you*, způsobena přítomností zájmena v rozličných kontextech, včetně neformálního jazyka. 2. osoba byla naopak relativně řídko zastoupena se 7 % výskytu. Oproti předchozím studiím bylo také použití 2. os. plurálu mnohem častější než použití singuláru, který se vyskytl pouze jednou. Neurčitá zájmena se vyskytovala málo, pouze ve 4 % příkladů. Z divergentních struktur bylo podle předpokladů nejčastější substantivum *člověk*, s 12 % příkladů. Následovali *lidé* s 3 % a jeden výskyt substantiva *život*.

Distribuce implicitních struktur se také podobala anglickým výsledkům. Nejvýše se umístilo reflexivum s 15 % příkladů, které bylo díky svému neutrálnímu charakteru přítomné v rozmanitých kontextech. Následovalo 'nahrazení neživotným členem', které bylo překvapivě i v češtině velice časté s 13 % příkladů. Pasivum, které je v češtině více formální a literární než v angličtině, bylo použito jen v 5 % vět. Zvláštní bezpodmětné struktury typu 'je + infinitiv' a 'jde o + substantivum' se vyskytly pouze ve 2 případech.

Z překladových protějšků obou jazyků byly vybrány ty nejfrekventovanější, které byly porovnány v třetí subkapitole. Při jejich zkoumání bylo zjištěno, že se mnoho z nich používá obdobným způsobem, a některé se dokonce často objevují jako překlady stejných francouzských vět. Na základě této korespondence jsme byli schopni rozdělit všechny prostředky do tří skupin. V první skupině byla dominantní česká 1. osoba množného čísla. Druhá skupina prokazovala vysokou frekvenci anglického *you* zatímco z českých prostředků byly nejčastější 2. osoba, reflexivní tvar slovesa a podstatné jméno *člověk*. V třetí skupině bylo prominentní anglické pasivum a *they*, stejně jako 3. osoba množného čísla, české pasivum a také reflexivní tvar slovesa. Pro každou skupinu jsme pečlivě prozkoumali, jaké věty obsahuje, a čím se specifikuje kontext, ve kterém se dané jazykové protějšky vyskytují. Na základě této analýzy jsme dospěli k závěru, že neexistují dva, ale tři typy generické reference, které svým rozdělením odpovídají třem výše zmíněným skupinám.

První skupina vyjadřovala čistě generickou referenci, která nebyla nijak omezena kontextem. Použité věty, byly velmi univerzální výroky ohledně chování lidstva a mezi častá témata patřila uvažování o životě a smrti. Vypravěč nepoužíval žádná omezující příslovečná určení; pouze adverbium *toujours* se vykytovalo poměrně často. Do této skupiny také patřily modální věty, které vyjadřovaly jistotní modalitu s významem možnosti. Tyto věty byly stejně generické a neobsahovaly žádné omezení kontextem. Modalita byla v 6 příkladech vyjádřena slovesem *pouvoir*.

Tato skupina obsahovala 19 příkladů, a i když se distribuce jejích jazykových prostředků neodlišovala od ostatních dvou skupin nějak extrémně, stále jsme si mohli povšimnout vyšší frekvence 1. osoby množného čísla se 7 příklady v češtině. V angličtině mělo zajímavý výskyt pasivum, které se objevilo čtyřikrát a pouze v modálních větách.

Druhá skupina byla také nerestriktivní, ale obsahovala částečnou specifikaci pomocí podmínkových, temporálních nebo komparativních vět. Tyto věty naznačují možný kontext, který může každá osoba zažít. V některých případech věty obsahovaly generická příslovečná určení odkazující na generické životní situace. Věty se často podobaly tzv. pseudo-generickému typu vyprávění, kde vypravěč sdílí své vlastní zkušenosti obecným způsobem tak, že se tyto zážitky dají vztáhnout na všechny osoby, které sdílí stejné povolání nebo národnost apod.

Náš materiál obsahoval 26 vět tohoto typu. V 16 z nich se vyskytovalo zájmeno *you*, které se zde ukázalo jako velmi prominentní. V českých překladech bylo nejčastější reflexivum, které se objevilo v 8 příkladech. Substantivum *člověk* se objevilo v 7 větách a 2. osoba v šesti příkladech.

Třetí skupina byla nejspecifičtější a také nejomezenější kontextem, protože obsahovala restriktivní věty, které omezovaly referenci *on*. Rozsah této skupiny lidí tvoří škálu, která zahrnuje na jedné straně věty, které neobsahovaly téměř žádný kontext a často odkazovaly na negativní sílu společnosti kolem nás, a na druhé straně věty, které směřovaly ke specifické skupině lidí. V příkladech bez velkého kontextového omezení bylo francouzské *on* následováno jiným osobním zájmenem. Více specifické věty obsahovaly určité příslovečné určení místa nebo času a byly jasně zasazeny do kontextu. Oba druhy vět byly často v minulém čase.

Tato skupina byla nejpočetnější, obsahovala 54 příkladů, které zároveň představovaly všechny příklady restriktivní reference v naší excerpci. 24 příkladů obsahovalo českou 3.

osobu množného čísla a 23 anglické pasivum. Anglické *they* bylo použito devětkrát. Reflexivum, které bylo významnější v předchozí skupině, se objevilo v 5 případech. České pasivum, které bylo obecně málo časté, se objevilo čtyřikrát. I když bylo vyřazeno z analýzy, je zajímavé, že nahrazení neživotným členem se také objevovalo nejčastěji v této skupině.

Na základě těchto výsledků můžeme říci, že uvedené 3 podskupiny generické reference reprezentují 3 různé druhy kontextů, ve kterých se vyskytují určité jazykové protějšky francouzského *on*. Po pečlivém zkoumání charakteristických rysů každého kontextu jsme stanovili 6 proměnných, které byly velmi prominentní a které pravděpodobně ovlivňují výskyt různých překladových ekvivalentů *on*. Tyto proměnné byly druh reference (nerestriktivní, restriktivní), druh věty (podmínková, temporální nebo komparativní), přítomnost určitého příslovečného určení místa, přítomnost modality, druh vypravěče (1. osoba nebo 3. osoba) a přítomnost osobního zájmena po *on*.

Kromě druhu reference, která jasně vykazovala vliv na výběr jazykových prostředků k vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele, byly ostatní proměnné testovány Fisherovým testem statistické významnosti. Bohužel, výskyt příslovečného určení místa a druh modality se neukázaly jako dostatečně důležité podněty pro výběr jistého jazykového protějšku. U první proměnné jsme zkoumali vliv určitého příslovečného určení místa na použití české 3. osoby plurálu a anglického pasiva, které byly nejčastějšími prostředky. U druhé proměnné jsme zkoumaly vliv modality na použití pasiva v angličtině, které se zdálo významné, ale také nebylo prokázané.

Nulové hypotézy, které jsme naopak mohli zamítnout, tvrdily, že druh věty nebo druh vypravěče nemají vliv na výběr prostředku k vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele. U první proměnné jsme sečetli frekvence podmínkových, temporálních a komparativních vět a zkoumali jejich vliv na použití nejčastějších prostředků 2. skupiny generické reference, tedy anglického *you*, českého reflexiva a substantiva *člověk*. Zatímco vliv vět na české protějšky se ukázal jako nevýznamný, vliv na anglické zájmeno *you* byl potvrzen p-hodnotou 0.0001.

U typu vypravěče byl zkoumán vliv druhu vyprávění na použití jazykových protějšků *you*, reflexiva a substantiva *člověk* pro 1. osobu vyprávění. Pasivum a 3. osoby množného čísla byly porovnány s 3. osobou vyprávění. Podobně jako u předchozího testu se ukázalo, že vliv vypravěče v 1. osobě nemá vliv na výběr českých jazykových protějšků, ale má vliv na použití osobního zájmena *you*. Výsledná p-hodnota byla 0.012. V případě vypravěče v 3. osobě se nepotvrdil vliv stylu vyprávění ani na jeden překladový protějšek.

Výsledek vlivu osobního zájmena, která následuje *on*, na výběr restriktivní 3. osoby plurálu v češtině a pasiva v angličtině byl celkem očekávaný, protože už byl zmíněn v teoretickém úvodu, sekce 2.2.3. Náš test tuto hypotézu jen potvrdil s p-hodnotou 0.0001 pro 3. osobu plurálu a 0.0008 pro anglické pasivum.

Přestože ne všechny proměnné byly prokázány jako významné při volbě strategie k vyjádření všeobecného lidského konatele, jejich častý výskyt s jistým jazykovými prostředky dokazuje, že mezi nimi existuje určitý vztah. Spojitost mezi užitím anglického zájmena *you* a nerestriktivním druhem generické reference, která obsahuje podmínkové, temporální a komparativní věty, byla nepopíratelná. Navíc je zajímavé, že zájmeno *you* ukázalo své prominentní zastoupení také ve dvou románech, které jsou vyprávěny v 1. osobě a podobají se pseudo-generickému druhu vyprávění. Důvodem tohoto vztahu může být samotný charakter zájmena *you* jehož inherentní funkcí je oslovovat posluchače. Tato funkce je totiž spojená s pseudo-generickým typem vyprávění, které se snaží zobecnit osobní vypravěče a přenést je na posluchače. I když generické *you* tuto primární funkci ztrácí, zdá se, že je z ní něco uchováno a odráží se v druhu kontextu, ve kterém se *you* vyskytuje. Jelikož se toto pravděpodobně projevuje zejména v literatuře, kde vypravěč oslovuje publikum, bylo by zajímavé hledat podobné výsledky i v mluveném jazyce.

Výsledky naší práce tedy celkem potvrdily distribuci překladových protějšků, jak byly uvedeny v teoretické části a také navrhly proměnné přítomné ve francouzském textu, které se prokázaly jako rozhodující při výběru překladového protějšku *on*. Naše práce obsahovala velmi malé množství dat, abychom tyto závěry mohli tvrdit s určitostí, nicméně, doufáme, že vzniklé návrhy otevřou prostor dalším možným studiím, kterou budou pracovat s větším množstvím jazykového materiálu. Všeobecný lidský konatel i generická reference se ukázaly jako velká témata a způsoby jejich interpretace se zdají velmi rozmanité a hodné dalšího výzkumu.



## 8. Appendix

### List of examples

- 1) Quand on sera au bord du trou faudra pas faire les malins nous autres, mais faudra pas oublier non plus, faudra raconter, tout sans changer un mot, de ce qu'on a vu de plus vicieux chez les hommes (...) (01-CLF:FR,91)  
*Až budeme nad hrobem my, nebudeme smět hrát si na chytráky, ale taky nebudeme smět zapomenout, budeme muset doslova přesně vypravovat všechno, co hnusného jsme u lidí viděli (...) (01-CLF:CZ,110)*  
When the grave lies open before us, let's not try to be witty, but on the other hand, let's not forget, but make it our business to record the worst of the human viciousness we've seen without changing one word. (01-CLF:EN,120)
- 2) Et puis ayant atteint la porte, à l'octroi, on passe encore devant le bureau moisi où végète le petit employé vert. (02-CLF:FR,1348)  
*A potom, když dojdeš k bráně, k potravní čáře, projdeš ještě kolem omšelé budky, v níž vegetuje scvrklý zelený akcizák. (02-CLF:CZ,1567)*  
When you get to the Porte and the toll station, you pass the stinking old office where the little green official is rotting away. (02-CLF:EN,1329)
- 3) Mme Herote sut mettre à bon profit les dernières licences qu'on avait encore de baiser debout et pas cher. (03-CLF:FR,348)  
*Paní Herotová dovedla dobře využít toho, že bylo ještě dovoleno pomilovat se narychlo a za laciný peníze. (03-CLF:CZ,420)*  
In those days, for the last time, there was still freedom to fuck standing up and cheap, and Madame Herote put it to good use. (03-CLF:EN,380)
- 4) Dans cette rue Saint-Vincent où je n'étais allé encore qu'une seule fois, on m'a fait demander chez les gens du troisième au numéro 12. (04-CLF:FR,1270)  
*Do té Vincentské ulice, kde jsem byl teprve jednou, mě zavolali do čísla 12 k nájemníkům ve třetím patře. (04-CLF:CZ,1476)*  
I was called to 12 Rue Saint-Vincent, fourth floor, where I'd been only once before. (04-CLF:EN,1259)
- 5) Tous les gens qui défilaient dans les couloirs du Paritz semblaient aller se faire tirer (...) partout un tir immense, dont on ne sortirait pas, ni les uns ni les autres. (05-CLF:FR,299)  
*Všichni lidé na chodbách hotelu Paritz vypadali, jako by se šli dát postřílet (...) všude obrovská střelnice, odkud nikdo neupláchne, ani jedni ani druzí. (05-CLF:CZ,367)*  
The people in the hallways of the Paritz all seemed to be on their way to be shot (...) all ripe to be shot, there'd be shooting from every side, no one would escape, not this one, not that or the other. (05-CLF:EN,334)
- 6) La vie des gens sans moyens n'est qu'un long refus dans un long délire et on ne connaît vraiment bien, on ne se délivre aussi que de ce qu'on possède. (06-CLF:FR,952)  
*Život chudých lidí je jenom dlouhé odpírání v dlouhém blouznění, a člověk zná opravdu dobře jenom to, a taky se odpoutává jenom od toho, co opravdu má. (06-CLF:CZ,1089)*  
The life of people without resources is nothing but one long rebuff and one long frenzy of desire, and a man can truly know, truly deliver himself only from what he possesses. (06-CLF:EN,941)

- 7) On n' y entre qu'à pied, comme à l'église. (07-CLF:FR,886)  
 Vniknout do ní lze jenom pěšky, jako do chrámu. (07-CLF:CZ,1021)  
 You can enter it only on foot, like a church. (07-CLF:EN,884)
- 8) Mais quand on y est, tout s'explique, et les Aztèques et leur mépris du corps d'autrui (...)  
 (08-CLF:FR,153)  
*Ale jak jednou vidí válku, hned mu je všechno jasné. Aztékové i to jejich pohrdání cizím životem (...)* (08-CLF:CZ,182)  
 Once you're in a war, you see how it is: the Aztecs' contempt for other people's bodies (...)  
 (08-CLF:EN,178)
- 9) Il y a des animaux ainsi faits, ils ont beau être innocents et malheureux et tout, on le sait, on leur en veut quand même. (09-CLF:FR,1814)  
*Některá zvířata bývají taková: nic jim nepomáhá, že jsou nevinná a nešťastná a bůhvíco ještě; člověk to ví, a přece je nemá rád.* (09-CLF:CZ,2133)  
 There are animals like that, they can be innocent, unhappy, anything you please, you know it, and still you don't like them. (09-CLF:EN,1784)
- 10) On nous considère déjà tous solidement comme des voleurs, de toutes les manières!  
 (10-CLF:FR,782)  
*Stejně se na nás na všechny dívají jako na zloděje, ať děláš co děláš (...)* (10-CLF:CZ,909)  
 They take us all for thieves anyway! (10-CLF:EN,793)
- 11) On fait tout pour leur plaire et tout le monde est bien content. (11-CLF:FR,1577)  
*Lidi se snaží, aby jim dělali všechno po chuti, a obě strany jsou spokojené.* (11-CLF:CZ,1870)  
 People do all they can to please them, and everybody's happy. (11-CLF:EN,1580)
- 12) L'hôtel, parlons-en, c'est plus inquiet, c'est pas prétentieux comme un appartement, on s'y sent moins coupable. (12-CLF:FR,1669)  
*Hotel, když už tak o tom mluvíme, je vzrušivější. Není to tak náročné jako soukromý byt; člověk si tam nepřipadá tak hříšný.* (12-CLF:FR,1969)  
 A hotel is more unsettled, less pretentious than an apartment, you don't feel so guilty.  
 (12-CLF:EN,1656)
- 13) Au lieu d'aller dans un asile bien convenable où on s'occuperait bien d'elle...(13-CLF:FR,1213)  
*Místo aby šla pěkně do nějakého slušného útulku, kde by se o ni dobře starali...* (13-CLF:CZ,1403)  
 (...) instead of going to a perfectly good institution, where she'd be taken care of... (13-CLF:EN,1194)
- 14) Et je repensais encore au colonel, brave comme il était cet homme-là, (...) on l'aurait montré se promenant comme je l'avais vu moi, sous les balles et les obus, dans un music-hall (...)  
 (14-CLF:FR,67)  
*A znovu jsem myslel na plukovníka; tak udatný byl ten člověk, (...) že by ho mohli ukazovat v kabaretu, jak se tak prochází v dešti kulek a granátů; (...)* (14-CLF:CZ,82)  
 And I thought of the colonel again, such a brave man (...) if they had exhibited him in a music hall, walking as I saw him under the bullets and shellfire (...) (14-CLF:EN,95)
- 15) Pour un temps triste et confidentiel on ne pouvait pas mieux désirer que le temps qu'il faisait dehors. (15-CLF:FR,1592)

*Pokud se týká ponurého, k důvěrnostem vhodného počasí, nebylo možné přát si něco lepšího, než jak venku bylo. (15-CLF:CZ,1887)*

The weather couldn't have been gloomier or more confidential. (15-CLF:EN,1592)

16) On se rend alors compte où qu'on vous a mis. (16-CLF:FR,1107)

*To si potom uvědomujete, kam vás to život strčil. (16-CLF:CZ,1279)*

Then you realize where they've put you. (16-CLF:EN,1095)

17) On cède au bruit comme on cède à la guerre. (17-CLF:FR,1049)

*Člověk se tomu hřmotu podrobuje stejně jako válce. (17-CLF:CZ,1211)*

You give in to noise as you give in to war. (17-CLF:EN,1041)

18) Ce ne sont pas les crimes qui se comptent en ce monde... Il y a longtemps qu'on y a renoncé... (18-CLF:FR,334)

*Důležitý význam v lidském životě nemají zločiny... Těch si už dávno nikdo nevšímá... (18-CLF:CZ,405)*

It's not crimes that count in this world... people stopped counting them long ago... (18-CLF:EN,366)

19) Quand on se jette d'un trait du haut de la Tour Eiffel on doit sentir des choses comme ça. (19-CLF:FR,157)

*Když člověk skočí z Eiffelovky, jistě cítí taky něco takového. (19-CLF:CZ,186)*

You must feel pretty much the same way when you jump off the top of the Eiffel Tower. (19-CLF:EN,182)

20) A-t-on pu le défendre encore longtemps ce hameau brûlant contre la faux sournoise du fleuve aux eaux beiges? (20-CLF:FR,761)

*Jak dlouho se jim ještě dařilo hájit tu žhavou vísku před šalebnou řekou s nažloutlými vodami? (20-CLF:CZ,878)*

Have they managed to defend that scorching hamlet against the insidious scythe of the yellowish-brown river? (20-CLF:EN,766)

21) On en a pas retrouvé "ça" du gars, mon vieux! (21-CLF:FR,505)

*Nezbylo z něho ani tohle, kamaráde! (21-CLF:CZ,582)*

Boy, they didn't find 'this much' of him! (21-CLF:EN,521)

22) Misère pour misère, je préférerais encore celle qui ne fait pas de bruit à toute celle qu'on étale dans les journaux. (22-CLF:FR,1492)

*Ono je to sice všecko jeden čert, bída jako bída, ale přece jenom mi bída, která nenadělá moc povyku, byla milejší, než ta, kterou rozpatlávají v novinách. (22-CLF:CZ,1750)*

Trouble for trouble, I preferred the quiet kind that's not splashed all over the newspapers. (22-CLF:EN,1486)

23) Seulement en se méfiant des confidences qu'on lui faisait trop aisément dans ces moments-là. (23-CLF:FR,306)

*Ale bylo radno dávat si pozor na pusu, protože v jistých chvílích se příliš snadno říkají všelijaké důvěrnosti (...)* (23-CLF:CZ,375)

But watch your step, because men tend to get too confiding on such occasions. (23-CLF:EN,343)

24) On se rend alors compte où qu'on vous a mis. (24-CLF:FR,1107)

*To si potom uvědomujete, kam vás to život strčil. (24-CLF:CZ,1279)*  
Then you realize where they've put you. (24-CLF:EN,1095)

- 25) (...) car pour l'entretien des choses chez nous, on a aucun goût, on est même à cet égard de francs dégueulasses. (25-CLF:FR,413)  
*(...) protože pro udržování věci nemáme smysl, ba jsme v tomto ohledu dokonalí sviňáci. (25-CLF:CZ,484)*  
(...) because maintenance isn't a French virtue, we have no taste for it, in fact, we're downright disgusting in that respect. (25-CLF:EN,432)
- 26) (...) ils avaient le sentiment, d'ailleurs peu raisonnable, qu'on aurait dû leur permettre de partir. (26-CA:FR, 1199)  
*(...) domnívali se, ostatně bláhově, že by jim měli dovolit odjet. (26-CA:CZ,1261)*  
Indeed, they had a natural if illogical feeling that they should have been permitted to move out to these happier places. (26-CA:EN,1265)
- 27) A Oran comme ailleurs, faute de temps et de réflexion, on est bien obligé de s'aimer sans le savoir. (27-CA:FR,8)  
*Z nedostatku času a uvažování jsou lidé v Oranu právě tak jako jinde nuceni milovat se, aniž si to uvědomují. (27-CA:CZ,4)*  
At Oran, as elsewhere, for lack of time and thinking, people have to love one another without knowing much about it. (27-CA:EN,6)
- 28) On ne peut pas toujours tendre sa volonté et toujours se raidir, et c'est un bonheur que de délier enfin, dans l'effusion, cette gerbe de forces tressées pour la lute. (28-CA:FR,1367)  
*Člověk nemůže žít ve věčném vypětí vůle, nemůže se věčně vzpínat a je šťasten, když konečně dá volný průchod silám, ukutým k boji. (28-CA:CZ,1430)*  
No man can live on the stretch all the time, with his energy and will-power strained to the breaking-point, and it is a joy to be able to relax at last and loosen nerves and muscles that were braced for the struggle. (28-CA:EN,1437)
- 29) A l'intérieur même de la ville, on eut l'idée d'isoler certains quartiers particulièrement éprouvés (...) (29-CA:FR,963)  
*Někdo připadl na myšlenku, aby se i uvnitř města izolovaly některé zvlášť postižené čtvrti (...)* (29-CA:CZ,1014)  
The authorities had the idea of segregating certain particularly affected central areas (...) (29-CA:EN,1014)
- 30) Il disait à peu près qu'il ne fallait pas essayer de s'expliquer le spectacle de la peste, mais tenter d'apprendre ce qu'on pouvait en apprendre. (30-CA:FR,1168)  
*Řekl zhruba asi toto: není potřeba se pokoušet o vysvětlení morové rány, ale máme se snažit poučit se z ní, pokud se můžeme poučit. (30-CA:CZ,1227)*  
Apparently it came to this: we might try to explain the phenomenon of the plague, but, above all, should learn what it had to teach us. (30-CA:EN,1229)
- 31) A quatre heures du matin, on ne fait rien en général et l'on dort, même si la nuit a été une nuit de trahison. (31-CA:FR,536)  
*Ve čtyři hodiny ráno se zpravidla nic nedělá, leda spí, i když noc byla nocí zrady. (31-CA:CZ,565)*  
Till four in the morning one is seldom doing anything and at that hour, even if the night has been a night of betrayal, one is asleep. (31-CA:EN,583)

- 32) A partir de ce moment, en effet, on vit toujours la misère se montrer plus forte que la peur, d'autant que le travail était payé en proportion des risques. (32-CA:FR,976)  
*Od tohoto okamžiku bylo jasné, že bída je silnější než strach, tím spíše, že tyto práce byly honorovány úměrně riziku.* (32-CA:CZ,1027)  
 From now on, indeed, poverty showed itself a stronger stimulus than fear, especially as, owing to its risks, such work was highly paid. (32-CA:EN,1028)
- 33) Le vieux Castel n'y contredisait pas, mais estimait qu'en fait, on ne pouvait rien prévoir, l'histoire des épidémies comportant des rebondissements imprévus. (33-CA:FR,1197)  
*Starý Castel neodporoval, ale byl přesvědčen, že ve skutečnosti se nedá nic předvídat, protože v historii epidemií nacházíme často nepředvídané zvraty.* (33-CA:CZ,1258)  
 While not dissenting, the old doctor reminded him that the future remained uncertain; history proved that epidemics have a way of recrudescing when least expected. (33-CA:EN,1263)
- 34) (...) comme on l'avait prié de sortir le moins possible, il y vivait seul, la plupart du temps, ou faisait la conversation avec la vieille mère. (34-CA:FR,1029)  
*(...) poněvadž ho prosili, aby vycházel co nejméně, žil tu většinu času sám nebo rozprávěl se starou matkou.* (34-CA:CZ,1079)  
 (...) he'd been told to go out as little as possible, he was always alone but for occasional meetings with the boys' mother. (34-CA:EN,1087)
- 35) Mais, après quelques démarches précises, il parvint à retrouver le service qui avait envoyé le bulletin et on lui dit alors que ces renseignements avaient été recueillis « pour le cas ». (35-CA:FR,532)  
*Avšak po dalším pátrání se mu podařilo najít oddělení, které dotazníky rozeslalo, a tam mu řekli, že se tyto informace sbírají pro případ potřeby.* (35-CA:CZ,561)  
 But on going further into the matter and finally discovering the office from which the form had emanated, he was told that this information was being collected with a view to certain contingencies. (35-CA:EN,579)
- 36) On n'est pas toujours à l'aise dans le travail que nous faisons. (36-CA:FR, 819)  
 V našem řemesle není člověk vždycky volný, jak by chtěl. (36-CA:CZ,859)  
 There's lots of snags, you know, in our line of business. (36-CA:EN,868)
- 37) (...) ce n'est que bien plus tard que, par la force des choses, cette dernière pudeur disparut et qu'on enterra pêle-mêle, les uns sur les autres, hommes et femmes, sans souci de la décence. (37-CA:FR,975)  
*(...) teprve mnohem později, pod tlakem událostí, zmizel i tento poslední zbytek studu a pohřbívali bez ladu a skladu jedny na druhé, muže i ženy dohromady, bez ohledu na mravopověstnost.* (37-CA:CZ,1026)  
 (...) it was only later that, by the force of things, this last remnant of decorum went by the board, and men and women were flung into the death-pits indiscriminately. (37-CA:EN,996)
- 38) On sortait la bière sous les prières, on la cordait, elle était trainée, elle glissait, butait contre le fond (...) (38-CA:FR,971)  
*Za doprovodu modliteb byla rakev vyzdvižena z auta, spoutána provazy, vlečena po zemi, pak pomalu klouzala dolů, až narazila na dno (...)* (38-CA:CZ,1022)  
 To an accompaniment of prayers the coffin was dragged from the hearse, roped up, and carried to the graveside; the ropes were slipped and it came heavily to rest at the bottom of the grave. (38-CA:EN,1022)

- 39) Car, dans le même temps, l'orchestre se tut, les gens du parterre se levèrent et commencèrent lentement à évacuer la salle, d'abord en silence comme on sort d'une église (...) (39-CA:FR,1016)  
*Neboť současně přestal hrát orchestr, lidé v přízemí vstávali a začali pomaloučku vyprazdňovat sál, nejdřív potichu, jako se vychází z kostela (...)* (39-CA:CZ,1064)  
 For at the same moment the orchestra stopped playing, the audience rose and began to leave the auditorium, slowly and silently at first, like worshippers leaving church (...) (39-CA:EN,1070)
- 40) On tolérait seulement qu'ils vinssent à la porte du cimetière et, encore, cela n'était pas officiel. (40-CA:FR,975)  
*Dovolovalo se jim pouze, aby přišli ke vchodu na hřbitov, a to ještě bylo neoficiální.* (40-CA:CZ,1026)  
 They were allowed to come only as far as the cemetery gates, and even that was not authorized officially. (40-CA:EN,1026)
- 41) (...) dans ce quartier où les gens vivaient toujours sur leur seuil, toutes les portes étaient fermées et les persiennes closes, sans qu'on pût savoir si c'était de la peste ou du soleil (...) (41-CA:FR,537)  
*V těchto čtvrtích, kde lidé byli zvyklí žít na ulici, byla všechna vrata zavřena, všechny žaluzie stažené, aniž kdo mohl říci, zda se tím chrání před morem nebo před vedrem.* (41-CA:CZ,566)  
 (...) ordinarily people living in these districts used to spend the best part of the day on their doorsteps, but now every door was shut, nobody was to be seen, even the venetian blinds stayed down, and there was no knowing if it was the heat or the plague that they were trying to shut out. (41-CA:EN,586)
- 42) Autrement dit, avait observé Cottard, on ne sait rien, ça peut reprendre d'un jour à l'autre? (42-CA:FR,1349)  
*"Jinými slovy se dohromady nic neví a jednoho krásného dne se to zase může zhoršit," poznamenal Cottard.* (42-CA:CZ,1411)  
 "In other words," Cottard said promptly, "there's no knowing. It may start again at any moment." (42-CA:EN,1416)
- 43) Mais on me disait que ces quelques morts étaient nécessaires pour amener un monde où l'on ne tuerait plus personne. (43-CA:FR,1251)  
*Říkali mi však, že těch několika mrtvých je nezbytně třeba k tomu, abychom nastolili takový svět, v němž se nebude zabíjet.* (43-CA:CZ,1312)  
 But I was told that these few deaths were inevitable for the building up of a new world in which murder would cease to be. (43-CA:EN,1319)
- 44) D'ailleurs, l'épidémie sembla reculer et, pendant quelques jours, on compta une dizaine de morts seulement. (44-CA:FR,382)  
*Ostatně se zdálo, že epidemie ustupuje, a po několik dnů bylo napočítáno pouze asi deset mrtvých.* (44-CA:CZ,405)  
 Moreover, the epidemic seemed to be on the wane; on some days only ten or so deaths were notified. (44-CA:EN,413)
- 45) Ah! si c'était un tremblement de terre! Une bonne secousse et on n'en parle plus... On compte les morts, les vivants, et le tour est joué. (45-CA:FR,542)

*Ach! Kdyby to aspoň bylo zemětřesení! Pořádný otřes a je pokoj ... Spočítají se mrtví a živí, a je to vyřízené. (45-CA:CZ,571)*

Ah, if only it had been an earthquake! A good bad shock, and there you are! You count the dead and living, and that's an end of it. (45-CA:EN,592)

46) On les voyait se hâter par les rues, courbés en avant, un mouchoir ou la main sur la bouche. (46-CA:FR,961)

*Bylo vidět, jak pospíchají po ulicích, sehnuti, s kapesníkem nebo s rukou na ústech. (46-CA:CZ,1012)*

Those few who went out could be seen hurrying along, bent forward, with handkerchiefs or their hands pressed to their mouths. (46-CA:EN,1012)

47) Mais si c'était cela, gagner la partie, qu'il devait être dur de vivre seulement avec ce qu'on sait et ce dont on se souvient, et privé de ce qu'on espère. (47-CA:FR, 1442)

*Ale jestliže tohle znamená vyhrát, jak musí být těžké žít jen s tím, co člověk viděl a nač se pamatuje, a bez možnosti doufat? (47-CA:CZ,1508)*

But if that was what it meant, winning the match — how hard it must be to live only with what one knows and what one remembers, cut off from what one hopes for! (47-CA:EN,1513)

48) Dès le début du printemps, on l'avait beaucoup vu sur les plages, nageant souvent et avec un plaisir manifeste. (48-CA:FR, 137)

*Hned z jara ho vidali lidé hodně na plážích, jak se zjevnou radostí a často plave. (48-CA:CZ, 145)*

He was often to be seen in public and at the beginning of spring was seen on one or other of the beaches almost every day; obviously he was fond of swimming. (48-CA:EN, 148)

49) Mais on me disait que ces quelques morts étaient nécessaires pour amener un monde où l'on ne tuerait plus personne. (49-CA:FR,1251)

*Říkali mi však, že těch několika mrtvých je nezbytně třeba k tomu, abychom nastolili takový svět, v němž se nebude zabíjet. (49-CA:CZ,1312)*

But I was told that these few deaths were inevitable for the building up of a new world in which murder would cease to be. (49-CA:EN,1319)

50) (...) dans ce quartier où les gens vivaient toujours sur leur seuil, toutes les portes étaient fermées et les persiennes closes, sans qu'on pût savoir si c'était de la peste ou du soleil qu'on entendait ainsi se protéger. (50-CA:FR,537)

*V těchto čtvrtích, kde lidé byli zvyklí žít na ulici, byla všechna vrata zavřena, všechny žaluzie stažené, aniž kdo mohl říci, zda se tím chrání před morem nebo před vedrem. (50-CA:CZ,566)*

(...) ordinarily people living in these districts used to spend the best part of the day on their doorsteps, but now every door was shut, nobody was to be seen, even the venetian blinds stayed down, and there was no knowing if it was the heat or the plague that they were trying to shut out. (50-CA:EN,586)

51) Quand on pense que ce livre a été écrit en 1932, c'est hallucinant. (51-HM:FR,402)

*Když uvážíme, že tu knihu napsal v roce 1932, je to neuvěřitelné. (51-HM:CZ,395)*

It's phenomenal when you think he wrote it in 1932. (51-HM:EN,442)

52) (...) j'offrirai cependant, pour être complet, une brève description synthétique d'une telle vie: on a la nature et le bon air, on cultive quelques parcelles (...) de temps en temps on tire un sanglier (...) (52-HM:FR,73)

*(...) nicméně pro úplnost podám v krátkosti syntetický popis takového života: máme přírodu a čerstvý vzduch, obděláváme pár pozemků (...) čas od času střelíme kance (...) (52-HM:CZ,74)*

A detailed description of this pastoral “idyll” is of limited interest, but to be comprehensive I will outline it broadly. You are at one with nature, have plenty of fresh air and a couple of fields to plow (...). Now and then you kill a boar (...) (52-HM:EN,75)

- 53) Dans Le Meilleur des mondes il s'agit d'anxiolytiques et d'antidépresseurs; dans Île on a plutôt affaire à la méditation, les drogues psychédéliques, quelques vagues éléments de religiosité hindoue. (53-HM:FR,410)

*V Konci civilizace máš anxiolytika a antidepresiva; v Ostrově jde spíš o meditaci, psychedelické drogy, pár věci z hinduistického náboženství. (53-HM:CZ,403)*

In Brave New World, it's tranquilizers and antidepressants in Island it's hallucinogens, meditation and some vague Hindu mysticism. (53-HM:EN,452)

- 54) Par exemple, on peut citer l'apparition du christianisme. (54-HM:FR,7)

*Příkladem může být vznik křesťanství. (54-HM:CZ,7)*

The rise of Christianity might be cited as an example. (54-HM:EN,5)

- 55) Jamais, à aucune époque et dans aucune autre civilisation, on n'a pensé aussi longuement et aussi constamment à son âge (...) (55-HM:FR,635)

*Nikdy, v žádné době a v žádné jiné civilizaci nebyl věk předmětem tak dlouhých a vytrvalých úvah (55-HM:CZ,627)*

Never in any other time, or any other civilization, have people thought so much or so constantly about aging. (55-HM:EN,687)

- 56) Pouvait-on assimiler Jésus à Krishna, ou sinon à quoi? (56-HM:FR,280)

*Dá se Ježíš ztotožnit s Krišnou, a jestli ne, tak s čím? (56-HM:CZ,275)*

Could Jesus be subsumed into Krishna, or perhaps into some other deity? (56-HM:EN,304)

- 57) Dans les cas de décès on a toujours tendance à dire une connerie de ce genre (...) (57-HM:FR,781)

*V případe úmrtí máme vždy sklon k podobným žvástům (...) (57-HM:CZ,775)*

When death occurs people tend to say shit like that (...) (57-HM:EN, 840)

- 58) Une fois qu'on est rentré dans le monde du travail toutes les années se ressemblent. (58-HM:FR,484)

*Jakmile se člověk zařadí do pracovního procesu, vypadá jeden rok jako druhý. (58-HM:CZ,477)*

When you work in something like teaching, every year seems the same. (58-HM:EN,531)

- 59) La cheville était très endommagée, on eut du mal à récupérer les éclats d'os (...) (59-HM:FR,129)

*Kotník byl hodně poškozený, chvíli trvalo, než se daly dohromady všechny úlomky kostí (...) (59-HM:CZ,129)*

His ankle was badly broken, and though surgeons worked hard to reassemble the bone fragments (...) (59-HM:EN,136)

- 60) Le camping était calme, c'était la pleine lune; on entendait le chant monotone des rainettes. (60-HM:FR,320)

*Kemp byl tichý, svítil úplněk; ozývalo se monotónní kvákání rosniček. (60-HM:CZ,315)*



The Lieu was quiet, the moon was full and the monotonous croak of tree frogs filled the air. (60-HM:EN,347)

- 61) Plusieurs entreprises de haute technologie se sont installées en profitant des réductions de charges sociales et d'impôts - dans la région on a Roche et Lilly. (61-HM:FR,794)  
*Usídlila se tu řada high - techových firem, které využily srážek na sociálním pojištění a na daních - v naší oblasti sídlí Roche a Lilly. (61-HM:CZ,788)*  
Quite a few hi-tech companies have set up here to take advantage of the tax breaks and the low social-security payments. Round here, there's Roche and Lilly. (61-HM:EN,853)
- 62) On ne naît pas raciste, on le devient. (62-HM:FR,509)  
*Rasistou se nerodíme, ale stáváme. (62-HM:CZ,505)*  
We Become Racist, We Are Not Born That Way." (62-HM:EN,557)
- 63) À ce moment on entendit, dans le lointain, la sonnerie du passage à niveau. (63-HM:FR,788)  
*V tu chvíli se z dálky ozval zvonek železničního přejezdu. (63-HM:CZ,782)*  
At that moment they heard the bells at the train crossing ringing in the distance. (63-HM:EN,847)
- 64) Beckett était probablement ce qu'on appelle un grand écrivain: pourtant, Michel n'avait réussi à terminer aucun de ses livres. (64-HM:FR,300)  
*Beckett byl pravděpodobně tím, koho nazýváme velkým spisovatelem: přesto Michel nedočel ani jednu z jeho knih. (64-HM:CZ,295)*  
Presumably he was what they called a great writer, though Michel had never managed to finish a single one of his books. (64-HM:EN,327)
- 65) Il se passa environ deux minutes, puis on entendit, venant de la chambre, une sorte de miaulement ou de hurlement. (65-HM:FR,224)  
*Uběhly zhruba dvě minuty a pak se z pokoje ozvalo jakési vyjeknutí či zavytí. (65-HM:CZ,226)*  
For a minute or two there was silence, and then a sort of mewling or howling from his room. (65-HM:EN,245)
- 66) Tout cela, on pouvait le lire dans le regard de l'enfant. (66-HM:FR,70)  
*To vše bylo čitelné v jeho pohledu. (66-HM:CZ,71)*  
All of this was written on the boy's face. (66-HM:EN,72)
- 67) (...) entre voisins, on fait connaissance dans un camping (...) (67-HM:FR,234)  
*v kempu se člověk přece seznámí se soused (...) (67-HM:CZ,237)*  
(...) it's easy to get to know your neighbors when camping. (67-HM:EN,256)
- 68) ensuite on se tait, on renonce, on est seul. (68-HM:FR,432)  
*pak zmlkne, vzdáme to, jsme sami. (68-HM:CZ,424)*  
then we go silent, we give up, we're alone. (68-HM:EN,473)
- 69) En somme on a affaire à une station balnéaire classique, plutôt bon enfant, à ceci près que les plaisirs du sexe y occupent une place importante et admise. (69-HM:FR,567)  
*V zásadě je to klasické a spíš usedlé přímořské letovisko, jen s tím rozdílem, že zde zaujímají významné a přiznané místo sexuální potěšky. (69-HM:CZ,562)*  
What we have here is a traditional, rather genial seaside resort with the single distinction that sexual pleasure is recognized as an important commodity. (69-HM:EN,616)

- 70) Au moment de sa disparition, Michel Djerzinski était unanimement considéré comme un biologiste de tout premier plan, et on pensait sérieusement à lui pour le prix Nobel (...) (70-HM:FR,5)  
*Když Michel Djerzinski zmizel, byl všeobecně považován za prvotřídního biologa a vážně se o něm uvažovalo v souvislosti s Nobelovou cenou (...)* (70-HM:CZ,5)  
 At the time of his disappearance, Michel Djerzinski was unanimously considered to be a first-rate biologist and a serious candidate for the Nobel Prize. (70-HM:EN,3)
- 71) (...) les événements qui découlent de la publication des travaux de Djerzinski ont été tant de fois retracés, commentés et analysés qu'on pourra se limiter à un résumé bref. (71-HM:FR,854)  
*(...) události, které zveřejnění Djerzinského prací podnítilo, byly už tolikrát popsány, komentovány a analyzovány, že se omezíme na krátký souhrn.* (71-HM:CZ,848)  
 (...) the events which followed the publication of Djerzinski's work have been pored over, commented on and analyzed so often that a brief résumé seems sufficient. (71-HM:EN,913)
- 72) (...) dès qu'on aborderait réellement les bases atomiques de la vie, les fondements de la biologie actuelle voleraient en éclats. (72-HM:FR,63)  
*(...) jakmile přijde skutečně na přetřes atomické podloží života, základy současné biologie se rozpadnou na kusy.* (72-HM:CZ,64)  
 (...) once biologists were forced to confront the atomic basis of life, the very foundations of modern biology would be blown away. (72-HM:EN,64)
- 73) On lui avait donné beaucoup de morphine (...) (73-HM:FR,119)  
*Podali jí hodně morfia (...)* (73-HM:CZ,120)  
 She had been given a great deal of morphine (...) (73-HM:EN,126)
- 74) Nous pensons aujourd'hui qu'il y a une époque de la vie où l'on sort et où l'on s' amuse (...) (74-HM:FR,608)  
*Dneska si myslíme, že v životě je období, kdy si užíváme a bavíme se (...)* (74-HM:CZ,600)  
 People think that when you're young you go out and have fun (...) (74-HM:EN,656)
- 75) Cet effort hasardeux, (...) on peut le comparer aux travaux de Cantor établissant une typologie de l'infini en acte, ou aux efforts de Gottlob Frege pour redéfinir les fondements de la logique. (75-HM:FR,838)  
*Tento riskantní, samotářský počin, (...) může být přirovnán ke Cantorově práci na typologii nekonečných množin nebo k úsilí Gottloba Fregeho nově definovat základy logiky.* (75-HM:CZ,831)  
 This risky, solitary labor (...) it can be compared to Georg Cantor's work to establish a typology of the infinite, which created set theory, or the work of Gottlob Frege, which redefined the basis of logic. (75-HM:EN,897)
- 76) Dans un pays où, jusqu'à il y a peu, contrat ou pas contrat, on était engagé forcément pour toujours, on ne quittait pas un emploi sans y mettre les formes. (76-NO:FR,841)  
*V zemi, kde jste byli donedávna smlouva nesmlouva angažováni jednoduše navždycky, se zaměstnání neopouští bez určitých forem.* (76-NO:CZ, 841)  
 In a country in which until very recently, contract or no contract, you were always hired forever, you did not leave a job without following certain traditions. (76-NO:EN, 837)

- 77) Elle entreprit même d'aller s'y brosser les dents deux fois par jour: on n'imagine pas les conséquences bénéfiques de sa haine sur son hygiène bucco-dentaire. (77-NO:FR,728)  
*Dokonce si tam chodila dvakrát denně čistit zuby: blahodárné důsledky této zášti na její ústní a zubní hygienu jsou nepředstavitelné. (77-NO:CZ,729)*  
 She started to brush her teeth there twice a day; her hatred for me was having a beneficial effect on her oral and dental hygiene. (77-NO:EN,725)
- 78) C'est une grande chose que de savoir quand on va mourir. (78-NO:FR,492)  
*Vědět, kdy umřeme, je velká věc. (78-NO:CZ,492)*  
 It is a very great thing to know when you are going to die, Fubuki. (78-NO:EN,492)
- 79) On pourrait dire les choses autrement. (79-NO:FR,4)  
*Šlo by to vyjádřit i jinak. (79-NO:CZ,4)*  
 You could put this another way. (79-NO:EN,2)
- 80) Ne dites pas trop de mal de vous-même: on vous croirait. (80-NO:FR,966)  
*Nikdy o sobě nemluvte moc špatně: uvěřili by vám. (80-NO:CZ,964)*  
 Don't speak too ill of yourself. People will believe you. (80-NO:EN,952)
- 81) Bizarrement, quand on exerce une tâche aussi peu reluisante, la seule façon de préserver son honneur consiste à se taire. (81-NO:FR,818)  
*Když vykonáváte tak málo brilantní zaměstnání, je zvláštní, že jediný způsob, jak si zachovat důstojnost, je mlčet. (81-NO:CZ,819)*  
 When your job is as dreary as mine was, the only way of preserving your honor is by remaining silent. (81-NO:EN,813)
- 82) Mais on m'avait quand même retrouvée endormie sous le contenu de la poubelle. (82-NO:FR,514)  
*Nicméně mě našli, jak spím zasypaná obsahem koše na odpadky. (82-NO:CZ,513)*  
 But I had after all been found asleep under the contents of a wastebasket. (82-NO:EN,514)
- 83) On ne vous a jamais dit, Fubuki, qu'il était avilissant de rudoyer les handicapés mentaux? (83-NO:FR,444)  
*Nikdy vám, Fubuki, neřekli, že zacházet hrubě s mentálně postiženými je nedůstojné? (83-NO:CZ,445)*  
 Has anyone ever told you, Fubuki, that it is wrong to mistreat the mentally impaired? (83-NO:EN,442)
- 84) On ne sait ce qu'est un excentrique si l'on n'a pas rencontré un excentrique nippon. (84-NO:FR,515)  
*Dokud jste se nesetkali s výstředním Japoncem, nevíte, co je to výstřední člověk. (84-NO:CZ,514)*  
 No one knows what "eccentric" truly means until they've met a Japanese eccentric. (84-NO:EN,515)
- 85) On t'a imposé trop de calculs pour que tu puisses aimer. (85-NO:FR,545)  
*Naučili tě přílišné vypočítavosti, než abys mohla milovat. (85-NO:CZ,544)*  
 You've been too weighed down by duties, too bound by limits, to be capable of love. (85-NO:EN,548)

- 86) Dans d'autres pays, on m'eût peut-être mise à la porte pour ce genre de comportement. (86-NO:FR,514)  
*V jiných zemích by se mnou asi za takové chování vyrazili dveře. (86-NO:CZ,513)*  
 In many other countries I might have been thrown out for that kind of behaviour. (86-NO:EN,514)
- 87) On ne m'y revit jamais. (87-NO:FR,997)  
*Už nikdy mě tam nespátřili. (87-NO:CZ,995)*  
 (...) I left the Yumimoto Corporation, never to return again. (87-NO:EN,980)
- 88) Je le regardai comme on regarde le Messie. (88-NO:FR, 171)  
*Podívala jsem se na něj, jako se člověk dívá na Mesiáše. (88-NO:CZ,173)*  
 I gazed at him as one might the Messiah. (88-NO:EN, 170)
- 89) On ne pouvait cependant pas lui reprocher d'avoir trop travaillé car, aux yeux d'un Japonais, on ne travaille jamais trop. (89-NO:FR,564)  
*Nicméně se jí nedalo vytknout, že příliš usilovně pracuje, neboť v očích Japonce nikdy nepracujete příliš. (89-NO:CZ,563)*  
 She could not, however, be reproached for working too hard because, in the eyes of the Japanese, you can never work too hard. (89-NO:EN,567)
- 90) On lui coule du plâtre à l'intérieur du cerveau (...) (90-NO:FR,533)  
*Vtloukají jí do hlavy (...) (90-NO:CZ,532)*  
 Her brain is steadily filled with plaster until it sets (...) (90-NO:EN,534)
- 91) Les employés des divers bureaux m'accueillirent comme on accueille un sportif. (91-NO:FR,131)  
*Zaměstnanci různých kanceláří mě vítali, jako se vítá nějaký sportovec. (91-NO:CZ,132)*  
 The employees greeted me as you would a champion athlete. (91-NO:EN,129)
- 92) On ne meurt pas à cause d'une latte de chocolat, fût -elle couleur de chlorophylle. (92-NO:FR,927)  
*Kvůli tabulce čokolády se neumírá, byť měla barvu chlorofylu. (92-NO:CZ,926)*  
 You don't die from chocolate, even if it is green. (92-NO:EN,915)
- 93) Ce qui me paraît encore plus certain, c'est que si on en parle, il y a de sérieux risques d'aggraver la situation. (93-NO:FR,277)  
*Mně připadá daleko jistější, že když se o něm mluví, je tu velké riziko, že to situaci ještě zhorší. (93-NO:CZ,277)*  
 And there's one thing I'm even more sure of, and that's if you do talk, there's a serious chance you'll make things worse. (93-NO:EN,274)
- 94) On l'a pour ainsi dire amputée de cette faculté essentielle. (94-NO:FR,555)  
*Tuto základní schopnost jí, abych tak řekla, amputovali. (94-NO:CZ,554)*  
 Her imagination has been amputated. (94-NO:EN,558)
- 95) On conspire contre son idéal depuis sa plus tendre enfance. (95-NO:FR,533)  
*Od jejího nejútlejšího dětství se spiknou proti jejím ideálům. (95-NO:CZ,532)*  
 Society conspires against her from her earliest infancy. (95-NO:EN,534)
- 96) Quelques jours plus tard, on annonça la venue de Piet Kramer. (96-NO:FR,590)

*O několik dní později ohlásili návštěvu Pieta Kramera. (96-NO:CZ, 589)*  
A few days later, Piet Kramer's arrival was announced. (96-NO:EN,593)

97) Mais quand on a très faim, un croûton de pain devient alléchant: dans l'état de désœurement et d'inanition où mon cerveau se trouvait, cette liste me parut croustillante comme un magazine à scandale. (97-NO:FR,51)

*Když však máte pořádný hlad, zachutná vám i suchá kůrka: ve stavu nečinnosti a zbytečnosti, v němž se nacházel můj mozek, připadal mi ten seznam pikantní jako bulvární časopis. (97-NO:CZ,51)*

But when you are very hungry the tiniest crust of bread is a feast. In the starved state in which my brain found itself, the list seemed as juicy as a gossip magazine. (97-NO:EN,49)

98) On ne pouvait cependant pas lui reprocher d'avoir trop travaillé car, aux yeux d'un Japonais, on ne travaille jamais trop. (98-NO:FR,564)

*Nicméně se jí nedalo vytknout, že příliš usilovně pracuje, neboť v očích Japonce nikdy nepracujete příliš. (98-NO:CZ, 567)*

She could not, however, be reproached for working too hard because, in the eyes of the Japanese, you can never work too hard. (98-NO:EN,567)

99) Dis-lui que tu restes seulement si on met aux chiottes une assiette où chaque usager déposera cinquante yens. (99-NO:FR,847)

*Řekni jí, že zůstaneš, jenom když na hajzliky dají talířek a každý na něj položí padesát jenů. (99-NO:CZ,847)*

Tell her you'll only stay if they charge anyone who uses the bathrooms fifty yen. (99-NO:EN,843)

100) On mange des mets froids, préparés à l'avance et entreposés dans de superbes boîtes de laque. (100-NO:FR,985)

*Jedí se studená jídla, připravená předem a uložená do nádherných lakovaných kazet. (100-NA:CZ,983)*

They eat cold dishes, prepared in advance and stored in beautiful lacquered boxes. (100-NA:EN,971)