Abstract

The goal of the thesis is to contribute to the description of the category of aspect and to do so in an alternative way, i.e. without linking aspectual value of a sentence exclusively or directly to the morphological make-up of the verb. The starting point is the distinction between states and activities, i.e. between state and activity events. In the center of our attention are states, namely the way how states are expressed by perfective predicates. Two analyses of corpus data (SYN v7) were performed to pursue the issue. The first analysis focused on the occurrence of state and activity meanings of perfective forms of so-called capacitive verbs. It turns out that one of the decisive factors construing the aspectual meaning of a sentence is the category of tense. The other analysis focused on a collocation we have termed *aspectual paradox*. It combines durative adverbials (for instance *stále*) with perfective verbs in the framework of one construction. This analysis has demonstrated that another important factor involved in sentence aspectual construal is modality. Another outcome of this analysis is a classification of state meanings of the "durative adverbial + perfective" collocation. Eleven kinds of meanings were established: ability, possibility, existence, quality, quantity, etc. *Verba sentiendi* and some *verba cogitandi* do not follow the same pattern as other perfectives. The last chapter is devoted to aspectual homonymy. The data presented in this chapter suggest (i.e. confirm again) that it is not the verb alone what determines the aspectual construal of the sentence. Sentence aspectual interpretation derives from the verb usage, not from the verb as lexical unit/verbal form.

Key words

Aspect, perfective, imperfective, activity, state, types of states, event, actuality, actuality of activity, actuality of state, actuality of event, capacitivity, capacitives, modality, dynamic modality, ability, possibility, verbs, modal verbs, , auxiliaries, tense, corpus, corpus of Czech, *verba sentiendi* (verbs of perception), *verba cogitandi* (verbs of thinking), *verba sciendi* (verbs of knowing)