

Abstract:

This paper presents a linguistic analysis of the expression of warning, threat and menace in Spanish and Czech. The thesis examines the communicative strategies employed by speakers to influence the behaviour of addressees and highlights the differences between the literal meaning of words and their intended impact. The theoretical framework of the paper is based on the concept of speech acts and their influence on addressees. The analysis employs a corpus-based approach to examine the linguistic expressions of warning, threat and menace in Spanish and compares them with Czech counterparts. This methodology allows the theoretical concepts to be tested by examining the actual use of (literary) language. Although both languages have a wide range of systemic possibilities of expression, the thesis identifies subtle differences in the way these functions are linguistically realised. This illustrates that the pragmatic meaning of an utterance is not constrained by specific linguistic forms and depends largely on the overall context.

Keywords:

warning, threat, menace, speech acts, pragmatics, Spanish, Czech