Abstract

The aim of this thesis, which is focusing on adnominal modification, is to analyze French present participles and the possibility of substituting this non-finite construction with a relative clause within French language. The first part of the thesis outlines the different syntactic functions of the present participle in French language and in English language, as well as the specific types of relative clauses that can function as a competing finite construction to the present participle. An important part of this is a contrastive chapter focusing on the different syntactic characters of the two languages, the analytic French language and synthetic Czech language, and the way they hierarchize the presented action within a phrase. As for the methodology of the analytical part of the thesis, the material is excerpted from the latest version of the syntactically annotated parallel corpus of French language, InterCorp v16ud. Therefore, part of the analysis will also serve as a commentary on the reliability and functionality of this new version. The first section consists of a quantitative analysis that intends to map the distribution of the two competing constructions within the InterCorp v16ud corpus and to describe the morphosyntactic and lexical features of their functional head (parent). The main qualitative analysis is carried out on a sample of 248 occurrences of the present participle. Considering both theoretical information and quantitative analysis data, the quantitative analysis aims to determine when the present participle can be replaced by a relative clause in French language and to identify the most important syntactic-semantic factors influencing this substitution. Additional information on the possibilities of substitution is provided by the analysis of the Czech translation counterparts of the constructions in the presented sample.