

The dissertation investigates the structures of the semantic field of necessity in English and in Czech on the basis of means of expression found in eight works of contemporary fiction (four English books, four Czech books and their published translations). The aim of the thesis is first to describe the structure of the semantic field in each individual language and then compare the acquired data, determine the similarities and differences and discuss the potential causes of the differences and their consequences in connection with the accurate expression of necessity in both languages.

The dissertation consists of three main parts: theoretical, empirical and the conclusion.

The theoretical part is outlined as a broad general introduction into the problems of modality and then specifically of necessity. Apart from the delimitation and interpretation of the general concept of modality it focuses on the means of expression of necessity used in English and Czech and their comparison. In the empirical part the individual means of expression found in the fiction are first discussed and compared within each individual language (e.g. the distinctions between must and have to, or mustn't and can't are discussed in detail) and then between the two languages. The conclusion offers brief summaries of the outcomes of the theoretical and empirical parts and on their basis generalizes and systematizes the similarities and differences in the structures of the semantic field of necessity in English and Czech.

The outcomes of the dissertation suggest that generally the semantic field of necessity is structured in a similar way in both languages and uses similar formal means of expression mainly in the area of deontic necessity where, in both languages, the main means of expression are modal verbs. There are, however, also some differences....