

Abstract

The thesis is a contribution to the study of designations of the human body in the Czech language and is based on contemporary theories and methods of cognitive and cultural approaches to language. It focuses on that part of reality which is called *noha / nohy* by members of Czech linguistic community.

First, two terminological perspectives from which the leg / legs can be seen were compared: the natural perspective of the linguistic picture of the world and the scientific medical perspective. The medical perspective tends to categorize parts of the body very precisely, it also analyses deep structures of the leg / legs. In contrast the natural perspectives only the surface of the leg / legs and distinguishes those categories which are significant for humans and their existence in the world.

In the main chapter we attempt to define the meaning of the Czech *noha / nohy* and of parts of the leg / legs by analysing definitions in Czech monolingual dictionaries, etymology of words, derived words and compounds, synonyms and especially phraseology. Based on the analysis of these sources we determined the systemic connotations and connected semantic profiles. We set down four semantic profiles: 1) appearance of leg / legs; 2) leg /legs as a part of the human body; 3) leg / legs as a means of movement (along the path); 4) leg / legs as a means of consolidation of the human body in space. The profiles of parts of the leg / legs (called in Czech *pata, špička, prsty* and *palec, kotník, lýtko, stehno, koleno*) are basically analogical to the profiles of leg /legs, only for the knee / knees we have a profile of the knee /knees as an instrument.

The fourth chapter summarises the results of the survey research which confirms many systemic connotations (movement, pain, foot wearing etc.) and enriches the field of meaning of the Czech *noha / nohy* with textual connotations (e.g. legs as a symbol of a women's beauty connected with sexuality).

The poem *Věštkyňe* written by Karel Jaromír Erben was analysed in the fifth chapter of this thesis in order to show the importance of semantic connotations, semantic profiles, image schemas and conceptual metaphors (all concerned with the designations *noha / nohy*) for the interpretation of creative texts.

The results of the entire research were summarized in the final cognitive definition of the Czech *noha / nohy*.