

Abstract in English

A corpus analysis of the semantic interpretation factors of the French gérondif

The aim of this work is to analyse factors influencing the interpretation of the implicit meaning of the French *gérondif* (Ger), and to explain, on the basis of this research, the semantic functioning of this non-finite verbal form (in connection with its equivalents in Czech). Our departing point is that the Ger form functions as an interpretation instruction, which defines the means of the integration of the action of the Ger into the action of the main proposition. This interpretation instruction defines the semantic invariant of the Ger, and thus its basic meaning; other meanings are derived on the basis of complex interactions of syntactic, lexical and pragmatic factors. The method used to examine these factors is based on a computer analysis of wide data acquired from monolingual and parallel corpora (FRANTEXT and InterCorp).

Part I presents a summary of the results of the latest research of Ger and defines the specific factors: *morphological* which determine the essential interpretation instruction of the Ger (I.1.1) and basic relationships of aspect and time between the Ger and the main proposition (I.1.2); *syntactic* which define the Ger as a predication (I.2.1), its syntactic function in the context of the main proposition (I.2.2.2) and thematic-rematic function (I.2.2.3); and *lexico-pragmatic* factors, which include on the one hand the lexical form of the Ger and its main verb and the inference relationships between their actions (I.3.1), and on the other hand the external modifiers of the meaning of the Ger, especially the adverb *tout* (I.3.2). At the end of the theoretical part the hypothesis of the widened interpretation instruction of the Ger (Table II in I.4.1) and the expected relationships between the meanings (Table III in I.4.2) are presented.

The beginning of the empirical Part II contains the description of the corpora that were used in this research, on the basis of their representational quality in the context of the specific research intention (II.1.1 and II.1.2): the basic corpus is formed by literary texts, which are supplemented by an analysis of scientific and partly also journalistic writing. On the basis of these corpora the first part of this analytical chapter (II.2.1) defines the basic tendencies in the lexical forms (*types*) of the Ger and its main verb (II.2.1.1 and II.2.1.2), and

the four main types of lexical forms are subsequently minutely analyzed (the verbs in question related to movement, speech, perception and manipulation with objects, II.2.1.3).

Chapter II.2.1 therefore allows us to describe the central, i.e. most common types of the Ger, their predominant meanings and correlations with external factors of semantic interpretation and with different types of Czech equivalents. The second part of the analysis is complementary to the first part (II.2.2): its point of departure is the analysis of the functioning of specific marked factors of semantic interpretation of the Ger, and thus defines periferal uses of this verbal form. The objects of research are subsequently morphological factors (the complex form of the Ger and modotemporal features of the main verb, II.2.2.1), syntactic factors (the Ger in negation and in a cleft construction, II.2.2.2), lexical factors (adverbial modifiers, especially the adverb *tout*, II.2.2.3), factors of coherence relationships (especially the contextualization of the Ger and its relation to the implicit subject, II.2.2.4). The last chapter summarizes the semantic functioning of the key factor of the position of the Ger (II.2.2.5).

This complex analysis of the interaction of the lexical forms of the Ger with external factors of its semantic interpretation allows us to summarize in the Conclusion the main relationships between the specific meanings of the Ger, factors determining them, and the prevalent types of their Czech equivalents. By collecting data on the frequency of the individual meaning types it is also possible to define central types, which perfectly correspond with the main interpretation instruction, and periferal or derived types (Table V).

The conclusions of this research allow us to correct or explain some common claims about the Ger in grammar books (the functions of the adverb *tout*, the “rule” of the simultaneity of the Ger with the main action and coreference with the subject of the main verb, etc.) and to indicate, at the same time, the basic features of a contrastive analysis (a more precise definition of the system equivalence of the Ger with the Czech transgressive, typological differences in the expression of different types of movement, etc.). However, the conclusions that are put forward represent only a small part of the potential of contrastive research of the participial system in French and Czech.