

## ABSTRACT

This thesis is concerned with the functions of adverbs *absolutely*, *completely* and *totally*. These adverbs are generally employed as adverbials denoting degree or intensifiers with gradable adjectives and adverbs. Their use is most frequent in informal spoken language due to their ability to occur as an emphatic agreement in the form of ellipsis. The distribution of the selected adverbs differs in inspected functions – the secondary sources claim the adverb *totally* has been used increasingly as an elliptical agreement. The results furthermore demonstrate their varying collocations and constructions in which they occur. The adverbs are examined on the corpus of contemporary American soap opera *Friends* whose language closely resembles informal dialogue. A combination of corpus analysis methods are employed in order to determine the status of the syntactic constructions containing *absolutely*, *completely* and *totally*. The analysis of 120 examples has proven that while *absolutely* and *completely* both occur primarily in one function, different for each adverb, *totally* may be used in a variety of detected functions resulting in semantic blends.