

Abstract

This dissertation aims to identify and analyse the frequency distribution of morphological forms of nouns in contemporary Czech. The work is based on an error analysis of texts of non-native speakers revealing and describing frequent types of errors in noun inflection. Against the background of recent research in the field of second language acquisition on the one hand and the principles of communicative approaches to language teaching on the other hand nine textbooks of Czech as a foreign language are analysed for approaches to the introduction and presentation of grammatical cases, their functions and typical constructions. It is concluded that it is necessary to exemplify case functions by prototypical constructions and sufficient sample nouns for which these functions are typical. With regard to the often observed emphasis on the noun as a part of the inflectional paradigm and thus on the nominative singular as its basic form, it is eligible for textbooks and language classes to shift the focus from the dominant paradigmatic to the syntagmatic aspect of nouns and their word forms. One of the initial questions of these theses therefore is which forms of a noun are essential to the adequate (didactically oriented) presentation of the noun and its use. A pilot study conducted on the data of the Czech National Corpus reveals that the frequency of case forms for specific lexemes differs significantly from the average distribution of case forms in the corpus. The small pilot sample is also analysed for the frequency distribution of the lemmas' case forms across different domains and types of communications. The actual study carried through on a random sample of 203 lexemes considered to be relevant to the level B1 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* confirms the findings of the pilot study. Lexemes can be classified according to their two most frequent morphological forms (their morphological profiles) and thus be quantified in seven highly frequent, eight medium frequent and nine low frequent types. It turns out that different morphological profiles may be specific to a particular semantic noun class (e.g. nouns denoting languages, nationalities, towns, or subject matters). For some exponents of the incurred morphological profiles their frequent collocations are evaluated in order to explore typical collocational patterns. Finally, we examine to what extent the profiles reflect characteristics of semantic categories of nouns, such as abstract and concrete nouns, names of human beings, animals, and places. The Analysis is

conducted on the data of a synchronic representative corpus of written Czech comprising 100 million tokens.

Key words: case, collocation, corpus linguistics, Czech language, Czech as a foreign language, error analysis, noun morphology, semantic classification of nouns