

# Abstract

**Title:** Non-finite Verb Forms as Semipredicates in Russian, Czech and German.

A Typological View.

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**Abstract:** This research paper presents a comprehensive picture of non-finite verb forms in Russian, Czech and German supported by a corpus analysis based on the parallel corpus InterCorp CNC. Equivalents of each of the non-finite verb forms were analysed manually in each of the monitored languages. The data obtained served for typological classification focused on non-finite verb forms as secondary predicates. Different frequencies of the individual forms and mutual competition of various means in language also indirectly result from the analysis.

In **Czech** we may observe generally a strong tendency to express the semipredication by means of a finite verb form in a sentence structure. As regards non-finite verb forms, the actively used forms are participle and verbal nouns, i.e. forms which relate to the existing part-of-speech paradigms. Due to being inflectional they express explicitly syntactic relations. Czech uses the possibility to express the secondary predication by means that are not contrary to morphological regularities of the inflectional type.

**Russian** uses actively all the non-finite verb forms. A high frequency among the equivalents was also recorded for Russian event nominals ending with *-ние*, which are not classified as verb forms in Russian. Nevertheless, the analysis proved that at least some nouns ending with *-ние* retained the verbal potential. In current Russian, explicitly expressed syntactic relations are getting weaker, and also constructions with non-finite verb forms show a number of agglutinative features.

Regarding **German**, typical of this language is interconnecting means of various types. In the field of non-finite verb forms, the type which is applied more frequently is the isolating type. The substantivized infinitive has a significant verbal character, however, it had a low level of representation among equivalents, contrarily, event nominals ending with *-ung* showed a higher level of representation. In German a highly productive means was polysynthesis which manifested itself in different levels across the equivalents of all non-finite verb forms.

The paper thus demonstrates not those potentially possible solutions in a language, but solutions that are applied in a higher degree. The equivalent analyses point to a general tendency in selecting language means in the relevant language. Complex focus on all non-finite verb forms and their equivalents provides a comprehensive picture of possibilities to express semipredication in Russian, Czech and German.

**Key words:** Czech, Russian, German, participle, infinitive, transgressive, verbal noun, substantivized infinitive, typology, equivalent