Abstract

The presented diploma thesis deals with the description of verbal epistemic parentheses such as *(ich) glaub(e)* or *(ich) mein(e)* in German and *myslím* in Czech. These types usually do not belong among the means of expressing epistemic modality and are often neglected in current dictionaries and grammars, although they have a different meaning than the verb they originated from.

The diploma thesis analyzes parentheses *(ich) glaub(e)* in German and *myslím* in Czech via spoken language corpora. The German data were acquired from FOLK (Forschungs- und Lehrkorpus gesprochenes Deutsch) which is a part of IDS Mannheim corpora. The Czech data come from ORAL v1 (Český národní korpus). The overall aim was to describe their syntactic behaviour, their semantics, and in some cases their prosodic features. The theoretical part focuses on distinguishing between discourse markers and particles. Such distinction forms a foundation for the analysis. The differentiation between grammaticalization and pragmaticalization is also commented on. Both parentheses were examined with relation to their syntactic position, syntactic integration, and their potential function as fillers. Based on the analysis, both constructions evince an advanced level of particularization and have features of particles and/or discourse markers. This discovery has an impact on the language processing of verbal epistemic parentheses, mainly as their description in monolingual and multilingual dictionaries and current grammars is concerned.