

Abstract (English)

The thesis deals with the relation between the complex semantic concepts of evaluativity and indefiniteness. The core of the thesis is a corpus-based case study of indefinite pronouns in Czech.

Whether or not the indefinite pronouns serve except as indefinite markers also as markers of evaluative meaning, is left aside in the relevant literature. The present studies are only restricted to a few notices about this possible relation.

The discovering of such relation follows an assertion of many evaluativity researchers that the expressions with such a function can accumulate in a clause or in a context. As a result, a new methodological approach, so-called lexicography-driven collocation analysis, is proposed here. This approach is based on the comparison between the definition of meaning, which is offered by a monolingual dictionary, and between meaning which a collocate obtains in contact with an indefinite pronoun. With respect to both the collocate is marked with a value from the evaluativity scale. These values enable a comparison, both regarding the evaluative or neutral meaning of the item and regarding the polarity of the evaluative meaning (positive vs. negative). The assignment of these values is subject to criteria defined in advance. In addition, morphosyntactic constructions usually connected to an indefinite pronoun are registered. Altogether, the respective characteristics is observed by 11 selected indefinite pronouns with various grammaticalization status. Collocation analysis is based on the data of web crawled corpus csTenTen v17.

The results of the analysis show a possible relation of the evaluative and neutral meaning in case of indefinite pronouns. In case of most indefinite pronouns, there is a tendency observed to prefer a negative evaluative context. Mostly, the selected pronouns can affect a positive or neutral context in a negative direction. Based on these findings, it can be stated that an indefiniteness or indefinability of some object, time, place, or situation is mostly perceived as negative. With respect to the research questions and hypotheses of the presented thesis, there is no relation of this characteristics with the grammaticalization. Nevertheless, some pronouns neither tend to occur in evaluative environment nor to affect the polarity of such context.

Furthermore, the thesis offers an overview of different approaches to evaluativity and a new corpus-based enumeration of Czech indefinite pronouns. The pronouns analysed with respect to the possible evaluative meaning are selected from this new set.

In addition, the thesis brings a new methodological approach to research a relation between two complex semantic phenomena. Regarding this, the thesis suggests the base for future research on this or some related topics and the data or initial hypotheses for possible psycholinguistic research in such area.