

ABSTRACT

The present work studies the uses of the English past conditional and problems it poses for Czech advanced learners of English. The correspondences between the English past conditional and its Czech translation counterparts are explored using a parallel translation corpus. This analysis shows patterns of translation correspondence and confirms that the English past conditional most frequently corresponds to the Czech present conditional. It also presents different ways of expressing the condition in both languages. The results then serve as a basis for a test administered to the students of the first year of the English studies Bc. programme at the Faculty of Education, Charles University. The answers of students are described and evaluated and suggest that they are quite proficient with conditionals. According to the results, the most difficult sentences are those where the past conditional is appropriate in English, but the present conditional is used in Czech. Additionally, where the condition is expressed in a way other than by a conditional clause (e.g., adverbial, implied, etc.). Other influences are also taken into account. The analysis is based on 50 examples gathered from the parallel corpus InterCorp available through the Czech National Corpus website and 60 students' responds.

KEYWORDS

past conditional, English/Czech, mistakes of Czech learners of English, parallel corpus