

## **Abstract**

The study focuses on formulaic language, specifically on the use of four-word lexical bundles in medical research articles written by non-native English speakers which were selected from three university journals written by non-native speakers English: *Acta Medica* (AM) by the Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové of Charles University, *Biomedical Papers* (BMP) by the Faculty of Medicine in Olomouc of Palacký University Olomouc, and *Prague Medical Report* (PMR) by the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University. As these journals present both names and universities of the authors, the identification whether they are native or non-native speakers did not cause any problems. A large number of studies have been carried out in the past focusing on the different use of lexical bundles of native and non-native speakers, therefore such study would not provide any new information. In recent years, authors have significantly expanded their options to use various assistive writing tools for academic writing. These tools use predictive models to offer users suitable formulations or even compose the texts themselves. It can be expected that these tools will influence the use of four-word lexical bundles in medical research articles written by non-native English speakers and for this reason this topic has been chosen as the subject of research. The aim of this thesis is to determine whether the phraseology of the texts before the advent of assistive writing tools differs from that of the latest texts. The theoretical part will describe the formulaic language with focus on phraseology in medical research articles, the structural classification as well as the functional classification of four-word lexical bundles, the general issue of lexical bundles in the language of both native and non-native English speakers, learner corpora, and additionally, the most common assistive writing tools available at the time of the examined texts will be introduced. The analytical part is a comparative corpus-based study and aims to identify four-word lexical bundles in medical research articles written by non-native English speakers within two corpora that are divided into two periods – 1998-2010 and 2011-2022. The parting year has been chosen with respect to the rising presence of assistive writing tools which are nowadays a common part of every Internet user. Based on corpora created for the purpose of this thesis, the identified four-word lexical bundles will be described in terms of their frequency, structural classification and functional classification. The corpora will be mutually compared to find out whether there are any differences occurring in these periods with respect to the rising use of assistive writing tools which are expected to influence the frequency and the functional use of four-word lexical bundles. Although the potential results cannot be directly linked to the presence or absence of assistive writing tools, due to their inevitable occurrence, it can be expected that they play a

part in the possible differences. Nevertheless, after analyzing the four-word lexical bundles, no significant differences were discovered, as both the functional and structural classification remained unchanged within the two corpora. Regarding the frequency, it was slightly higher in the 1998-2010 corpus, however, these results do not show any significant differences as the number of lexical bundles differs in the corpora.