

Abstract

Arabic loanwords are present in many Slavic languages. Arabic words have also entered the Czech language, and still do. Arabic loanwords in Czech have been studied previously, however to a small extent. This research focuses on the contemporary layer of Arabic loanwords, which previous research did not deal with. Specifically, the work deals with their semantics. The author asks the question whether contemporary Arabic loanwords in Czech undergo changes in meaning, and if they have undergone changes, the author asks what changes. He bases his answer on a comparison of their meaning deduced from the collocations that they form in corpora. Using the Czech National Corpus (ČNK), the author first created a list of contemporary Arabic loanwords and then examined their collocations in the Czech corpus SYN12 and the Arabic corpus The Arabic Web Corpus (artent18). The research shows that most contemporary Arabic loanwords in Czech (12/18) have not undergone a significant change in meaning. All the words that have undergone a change (6/18) have narrowed their meaning. In addition to the meaning being changed by narrowing it down, two words (šarīʿa and ġihād) have acquired a negative connotation. Despite certain limitations, this research brought new knowledge about the current layer of Arabic loanwords in the Czech language and can serve as a base for further research into Arabic loanwords in the Czech language.

Keywords: Arabic loanword, Czech, Arabic, collocation, lexical borrowings