

Abstract

This BA thesis deals with the use and interpretation of the Czech particle *snad* in both matrix and embedded polar questions. The interpretation is carried out with particular attention to two pragmatic factors: epistemic and evidential bias. Based on the bias profile annotated on several corpus samples, the thesis attempts to present a behavioural model of the interrogative polar clauses. From the pragmatic angle, it examines the illocutionary force of the polar interrogative clauses and the possible expression of secondary communicative functions, such as distrust in contextual evidence. From a formal point of view, the word order (declarative/interrogative) and polarity are considered; in case of negation, we distinguish between inner or outer reading. The analysis has shown that polar interrogative clauses with *snad* have mainly two types of bias profiles. The first type includes cases where biases are conflicting; functionally, these are conflict-resolving questions, the polarity in such cases is the same as evidential bias. In case of negation (and thus negative evidential bias), both readings are possible, corresponding to different word order realizations. We relate the choice of negation type to other pragmatic information. The second type comprises explanation-seeking questions in which only positive evidential bias is present. Such clauses can be positive or can contain outer negation. As corpus data showed, embedded polar questions behave differently in this regard and use negation significantly more often. In terms of pragmatics, questions with *snad* can take on either interrogative or assertive function, matrix questions always express rejection of the implication of contextual evidence. The thesis also provides a general insight into the use of the particle *snad* in declarative clauses.

Keywords

snad | polar interrogative clauses | negation | bias | particles