

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the analysis and comparison of explicit and implicit means of reference to the general human agent in English and in Czech. In these languages we may find both explicit and implicit means which are used to refer to the general human agent and which are identical to a certain degree. However, especially among the implicit means we may observe rather different structures in both languages. This thesis analyses two sets of data – the excerpts from two English novels with their Czech translations and two Czech novels with their English translations. The total number of examples excerpted is 200, each example being considered with its translation to the other language. The source language of this study is English for which a set of particular explicit and implicit means which we focus on in this analysis was defined. For this reason, also in the case of the Czech originals the examples were excerpted from the English translations and their Czech original versions were found. The samples obtained from both the sets of data were further compared and the analysed means were divided into three groups - instances where the means in English and in Czech were identical, instances where the means were nonidentical and instances where the reference to the general human agent was present only in English. Each of the analysed explicit or implicit means was then described individually, together with its identical and nonidentical Czech counterparts, the means in both languages being analysed with respect to the scope of their reference, frequency of occurrence, employment in the particular context and stylistic features. Especially the implicit means which in Czech, contrary to English, are rather various, are to a large extent influenced by semantics and context. In one case where there was a repeatedly used nonidentical Czech means which is not generally described as a possible means of reference to the general human agent, all its occurrences in the Czech originals were sought and their English equivalents were analysed in order to reveal a possible neglected aspect of the general human agent in English. The cases where the reference to the general human agent was not expressed or implied in Czech were also commented on. The aim of this thesis is thus to see how the explicit and implicit means of reference to the general human agent differ in the parallel English and Czech texts and which factors play a role when the particular counterpart is sought.