

**COMPLEX WORDS,  
CAUSATIVES,  
VERBAL PERIPHRASES  
AND THE GERUND**

**ROMANCE LANGUAGES  
VERSUS CZECH (A PARALLEL  
CORPUS-BASED STUDY)**

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# Complex Words, Causatives, Verbal Periphrases and the Gerund

Romance Languages versus Czech (A Parallel Corpus-Based Study)

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**1. EXPRESSIONS OF POTENTIAL  
PARTICIPATION, ITERATIVITY,  
CAUSATION, INGRESSIVITY  
AND ADVERBIAL SUBORDINATION  
IN THE LIGHT  
OF PARALLEL CORPORA**

**PETR ČERMÁK  
DANA KRATOCHVÍLOVÁ  
OLGA NÁDVORNÍKOVÁ  
PAVEL ŠTICHAUER**

## 1.1 INVESTIGATION PROJECT AND ITS HISTORY

The present monograph is the result of a long-term project, which started in 2013 when an investigation group was formed by experienced teachers (Petr Čermák, Pavel Štichauer, Jan Hricsina, Jaroslava Jindrová, Zuzana Krinková, Olga Nádvořníková), and their Ph.D. (MA, in one case) students (Leontýna Bratánková, Štěpánka Černíková, Jiří Jančík, Dana Kratochvílová, Petra Laufková, Daniel Petřík, Eliška Třísková) from the Department of Romance Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. The objective of the investigation group was to explore the possible usage of the parallel corpus InterCorp (created by the Institute of the Czech National Corpus at the very same university; for further details refer to Nádvořníková this volume) for a contrastive analysis of Romance languages and Czech, the mother tongue of all the authors. The group was comprised of students and professors of Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. Four structurally different phenomena, which can be found in all these languages, were selected for analysis: complex words with the suffix *-ble/-bile/-vel* and the prefix *re-/ri-*, causative construction *hacer/fare/faire/fazer* + infinitive, ingressive verbal periphrases and the gerund. The primary objective was to study the Czech respondents of these language phenomena that can be found in the InterCorp corpus, thus testing its usefulness for this kind of study and formulating conclusions regarding the systemic Czech counterparts.

In the first stage, the analysis was conducted separately for each Romance language (with a shared introduction and conclusion) and was oriented primarily to Czech readers and Czech professors and students of Romance languages, i.e. their knowledge of Czech and the knowledge of at least one of the four Romance languages was taken for granted when analysing the linguistic material and presenting the results.

The first stage was concluded in 2015 with the publication of the collective monograph *Románské jazyky a čeština ve světle paralelních korpusů* (Čermák – Nádvořníková et al. 2015), which was published in Czech.

The project entered its second phase at the beginning of 2018, with the final result being the present monograph. This stage was conducted by four members of the original investigation group, who are now professors and assistant professors at the Department of Romance Studies (Petr Čermák, Dana Kratochvílová, Olga Nádvořníková, Pavel Štichauer). Building on the results of the first phase, on the original data and the

illustrative examples that were prepared by the whole investigation group, the objective was to create a new monograph which, while sharing some of the original objectives with the Czech version, would present the results in a new light.

## 1.2 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PRESENT MONOGRAPH

While the monograph representing the result of the first stage of the project was written in Czech, the present book is oriented primarily to readers whose native language is not Czech and who might only have a primary or secondary interest in this Slavic language. It thus offers a corpus-based analysis of four research topics in four Romance languages in the light of their respondents in a typologically different language. The monograph is written in English and all Czech examples are translated or glossed. The anticipated audience for this book are primarily scholars interested in at least one of the Romance languages under scrutiny (Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese). Therefore, while we do not expect readers to be well acquainted with all four languages and we present translations for Romance examples, we do not provide exhaustive glosses for them or detailed descriptions of what is the function of the analysed phenomena within the Romance language system in general. Where necessary, we concentrate solely on important differences that can be found between the four languages.

While analysing the same phenomena, i.e. complex words, causative constructions, ingressive periphrases and the gerund, the scope and point of view of these that are presented differ notably from the original Czech monograph. In the second stage, we decided to consider these phenomena as generally Romance,<sup>1</sup> meaning that we considered their function in Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese as being largely comparable (while mentioning some partial differences that were significant for our research) and then contrasted these phenomena with Czech as a whole. Thus, from the contrastive point of view, this monograph compares the representation of potential (non-volitional) participation, iterativity, causation, ingressivity and adverbial subordination in Romance and in Czech (rather than presenting partial analyses concentrating solely on one of the four languages, i.e. Spanish vs Czech, Italian vs Czech, French vs Czech and Portuguese vs Czech, as in the first stage of the research).

The second important difference is closely related to the above-presented point. Since we consider the phenomena as generally Romance, we also approach them on a more abstract level than we did in the first stage. At this point, we are not concerned primarily with the formal manifestation of the phenomena under scrutiny; we rather consider the suffix *-ble/-bile/-vel*, the prefix *re-/ri-*, the construction *hacer/fare/faire/fazer* + infinitive, the ingressive periphrases and the gerund as prototypical or “pure”

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1 However, as in the first stage, we excluded Romance languages other than Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese from our research.

expression form of abstract categories of potential (non-volitional) participation, iterativity, causativity, beginning of an action and adverbial (or circumstantial) subordination. Ranging from complex words through causatives and periphrases to the gerund, we aim to explore the extent to which the abovementioned linguistic categories are systemically encoded in Czech and on which language levels these can primarily be found. Therefore, our primary goal is to present a corpus-based contrastive analysis of these highly abstract categories and their manifestation in Czech, thus moving toward presenting the semantic notions generally attributed to them in a new light. This is based on concrete language data, rather than on intuition or formal manifestation.

### 1.3 ORGANISATION OF THE MONOGRAPH

This monograph is organised into seven sections, including the present introductory chapter, i.e. **Chapter 1**.

**Chapter 2** is devoted to a detailed description of the corpus we work with and the method. It is the only chapter that has one single author, Olga Nádvorníková. In the rest of the book, this chapter is referred to as **Nádvorníková (this volume)**.

Chapters 3–6 represent the core of this monograph. As stated previously, these chapters are based on the original data and incorporate some of the observations made in the Czech version of the book. The following list briefly presents the topic of each chapter, the name of the person preparing the English version and the names of the authors of the original Czech subchapters, which have been incorporated into the new version. All contributors to the original Czech monograph are also listed as co-authors of the new version.

**Chapter 3** focuses on complex words, more specifically, on the suffix *-ble/-bile/-vel* and the prefix *re-/ri-*, the function of these affixes and the representation of these functions in Czech. The English version was written by Pavel Štichauer, who is also the main author of the original Czech version. The authors of the original Czech subchapters referring to Spanish, French and Portuguese were Jan Hricsina (Pt., suffix *-vel*), Jaroslava Jindrová (Pt., prefix *re-*), Jiří Jančík (Fr.), Zuzana Krinková (Es., prefix *re-*) and Daniel Petřík (Es., suffix *-ble*). This chapter is referred to as **Štichauer et al. (this volume)** in the rest of the book.

**Chapter 4** deals with the causative construction *hacer/fare/faire/fazer* + infinitive and the expression of causativity in Czech. The English version was written by Petr Čermák and Dana Kratochvílová, Petr Čermák was also the main author of the Czech version. The authors of the original subchapters referring to Italian, French and Portuguese were Petra Laufková (Fr. and Pt.) and Pavel Štichauer (It.). In the rest of the book, this chapter is referred to as **Čermák - Kratochvílová et al. (this volume)**.

**Chapter 5** analyses ingressive verbal periphrases and the expression of the beginning of a process in Czech. The English version was written by Dana Kratochvílová,

while the main author of the Czech version was Jaroslava Jindrová. Dana Kratochvílová was also the author of the original Czech subchapter referring to Spanish. Authors of the original subchapters referring to Italian and French were Pavel Štichauer (It.) and Eliška Třísková (Fr.). This chapter is referred to as **Kratochvílová - Jindrová et al. (this volume)** in the rest of the book.

**Chapter 6** is devoted to the Romance gerund and its Czech respondents. The English version was written by Olga Nádvorníková, who is also the main author of the Czech version. The original subchapters dedicated to Spanish, Italian and Portuguese were written by Leontýna Bratánková (It.), Štěpánka Černíková (Es.) and Jan Hricsina (Pt.). In the rest of the book, this chapter is referred to as **Nádvorníková et al. (this volume)**.

Finally, **Chapter 7** presents the conclusions and possibilities for future study in the area of contrastive corpus-based analysis and the study of abstract linguistic categories and their formal manifestation. This chapter was written by Petr Čermák, Dana Kratochvílová, Olga Nádvorníková and Pavel Štichauer and is referred to as **Čermák - Kratochvílová - Nádvorníková - Štichauer (this volume)**.

## 1.4 TERMINOLOGICAL REMARKS

In order to conclude this introductory chapter, we consider it important to present the most important terms that are used throughout this whole monograph and to specify the meaning we attributed to them.

### 1.4.1 ROMANCE LANGUAGES UNDER SCRUTINY AND USE OF THE TERM ROMANCE

As previously mentioned, this monograph is concerned solely with Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. For the sake of simplicity, we often use terms such as Romance construction, Romance prefix etc. when referring to a phenomenon we have analysed. It is important to bear in mind, that to a certain level, this is an oversimplification since we do not consider at all the Catalan and Galician language, minor Romance languages and dialects, and more importantly, we do not analyse Romanian, which displays greater structural differences from Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese. Therefore, throughout this whole monograph, the use of the term *Romance* is identified exclusively with the four analysed Romance languages.

When referring to Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese separately, we use the following abbreviations: Es., It., Fr. and Pt.

#### **1.4.2 USE OF THE TERMS COUNTERPART AND RESPONDENT**

We often come across situations in our analyses where the expected systemic functional counterpart of a Romance phenomenon does not appear among the prevailing translational solutions found in the InterCorp parallel corpus. Since this distinction is crucial to us, we use the term *counterpart* when discussing the theoretical Czech systemic equivalent of a specific Romance phenomenon while the term *respondent* is reserved for specific Czech translations found in the corpus. The opposition between counterpart and respondent can thus also be understood in terms of *langue* (typological counterpart) and *parole* (used respondent).

**2. CORPUS DESIGN  
& CORPUS-BASED CONTRASTIVE  
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**OLGA NÁDVORNÍKOVÁ**

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Multilingual corpora strongly changed the research paradigm in contrastive studies, making it possible to base the contrastive statements not only on intuition but on large corpus data. As pointed out by Altenberg – Granger (2002, 7), bilingual and multilingual corpora have brought about a revival of interest in contrastive linguistics, since they opened up new possibilities of research, based on empirical data. According to these authors, “the information gained from corpora is both richer and more reliable than that derived from introspection” (ibid.).

Specific methods and approaches subsequently developed, e.g. bi-directional analysis (‘Johansson’s procedure’, see Johansson 2007) or the use of ‘translation counterparts as markers of meaning’ (Malá 2013 and 2014). With the analysis of the overall pattern of translation correspondence, we can ‘see through multilingual corpora’ (Johansson 2007) and shed new light on the differences and similarities between the languages compared.

These developments would not be possible without the constitution of a rigorous methodology of the exploitation of multilingual corpora, taking into account, on the one hand, the limitations of the representativeness of these corpora in terms of size and composition, and, on the other hand, the potential specific features of the language of translation (see Nádvorníková 2017a and 2017b). This chapter first provides a brief summary of the basic methodological principles of corpus-based contrastive research (**Section 2.1**) to subsequently explain the strengths and the limitations of the corpora used in the research introduced in this book (**Section 2.2**).

### 2.1 CORPUS-BASED CONTRASTIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Most corpora used in contrastive corpus-based research is comprised of original, non-translated texts and the corresponding translations. These corpora are mostly called ‘parallel’ (see Xiao – Yue 2009, 241–242; Aijmer 2008, 276; Granger 2003, 21), with a potential distinction between unidirectional parallel corpora (i.e. containing