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K některým otázkám závislostní gramatiky

EVA HAJIČOVÁ

On some issues of dependency grammar

ABSTRACT: The popularity of dependency-based syntax has grown in the last thirty years, in spite of the fact that phrase-structure-based descriptions have prevailed in so-called mainstream linguistics. Two factors are important here: (i) a growing interest in semantics, which results in the penetration of dependency-based notions into the original phrase-structure-based grammars, (ii) dependency offers a more perspicuous view of the sentence structure and as such has played an important role in computational linguistics. We first summarize the basic tenets of both theories mentioned above (Section 2) and point out the reasons for the growing interest in dependency-based grammars (Section 3). In Section 4, attention is focused on one of the issues often quoted as problematic in dependency-based analysis, namely cases in which the surface order of words is not in accordance with the condition of projectivity. The analysis, based on material from the Prague Dependency Treebank, supports the claim made by Functional Generative Description that this issue can be adequately solved by postulating a dependency-based underlying (tectogrammatical) syntactic structure that meets the condition of projectivity and by describing the relationship between this structure and the surface word order on the basis of certain contextual conditions.

Key words: theoretical description of language, dependency grammar, projectivity, computational linguistics, Prague Dependency Treebank

Klíčová slova: teoretický popis jazyka, závislostní gramatika, projektivita, počítačová lingvistika, Pražský závislostní korpus

*Ústav formální a aplikované lingvistiky MFF UK
Malostranské nám. 25, 118 00 Praha 1
<hajicova@ufal.mff.cuni.cz>*

Cmorej a Tichý o jazyce a jeho logické analýze

JIŘÍ RACLAVSKÝ

Cmorej and Tichý on language and its logical analysis

ABSTRACT: Slovak logician Pavel Cmorej has recently opened up the question of the nature of logical analysis of natural language in a new way. He shows, for example, that attributing meaning to some meaningful language expression is an a priori and analytic statement, if a language is examined as a given. This is because a meaningful expression is best conceived as a pair consisting of a semi-expression and an assigned meaning. I show that these claims as well as many other observations are fully compatible with the late Czech philosopher and logician Pavel Tichý's specific concept of language as a code system.

Key words: logical analysis of natural language, Pavel Cmorej, Pavel Tichý

Klíčová slova: logická analýza přirozeného jazyka, Pavel Cmorej, Pavel Tichý

*Katedra filozofie FF MU
Arne Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno
<raclavsk@phil.muni.cz>*

Kategorie honorativu v českých konjugačních paradigmatech

ALEXANDR ROSEN – ZYGMUNT SALONI

The category of honorific in Czech conjugation paradigms

ABSTRACT: In Czech, as in many other languages, second person plural forms are used as a means of formal address. As in French, and unlike in Russian, a finite verb predicated of the pronoun *vy* in this usage agrees with its subject in plural, as expected, while participles and predicative adjectives are singular. It is argued that this pattern of hybrid agreement, present both within analytical verb forms and syntactic constructions and different from regular plural and singular, justifies the introduction of the morphological category of honorific in Czech. As a result, an account of analytical verb forms cannot be complete without providing an explicit description of the forms of second person formal address. Existing Czech grammar reference books are not quite satisfactory in this respect; furthermore they implicitly presuppose the application of rules concerning grammatical gender. We offer a solution to the issue of the adequate presentation of analytical verbal morphology paradigms, including formal address, along the lines of a Polish verbal morphology handbook.

Key words: honorific, formal address, conjugation, conjugation paradigm, hybrid agreement, analytical morphology, agglutination, Czech, Polish

Klíčová slova: honorativ, vykání, konjugace, konjugační paradigma, hybridní shoda, analytická morfologie, aglutinace, čeština, polština

Alexandr Rosen

Ústav teoretické a počítačnické lingvistiky FF UK

Celetná 13, 110 00 Praha 1

<alexandr.rosen@ff.cuni.cz>

Zygmunt Saloni

Instytut Filologii Polskiej UWM

ul. Szrajbera 11, 10-007 Olsztyn, Poland

<saloni@uw.edu.pl>

Václav Cvrček

Spisovnost a její zdroje

Literariness: the concept and its criteria

ABSTRACT: Although “literary language”, i.e. standard language or *spisovná čeština*, was the central notion of the Prague Linguistic Circle’s Theory of the Cultivation of Language, it has never been defined. This article deals with the problem of definition of “literariness”, a concept which forms the base for the codification criterion of “correspondence with the literary norm”. Several attempts to define it or to provide criteria for “literariness” were made, but, as I explain, none of them were successful in reproducing the codified set of language means. These attempts can be divided into two groups: nominalistic and realistic. The former suggests that literariness (i.e. being a part of literary/standard language) is “a mere label”, a characteristic that is acquired by being codified, the latter supposes that language means are standard or nonstandard (or something in between) depending on their usage. The nominalistic approach appears to be inadequate, as it provides no opportunity for language development. Realistic criteria, however, are either methodologically dubious or highly controversial among Czech linguists.

Key words: literariness, literary language, codification, prescriptivism, language standard, intervention

Klíčová slova: spisovnost, spisovný jazyk, kodifikace, preskriptivismus, jazykový standard, intervence

Ústav Českého národního korpusu FF UK
nám. Jana Palacha 2, 116 38 Praha 1
<vaclav_cvrcek@volny.cz>