

# SLOVO A SLOVESNOST

Časopis pro otázky teorie a kultury jazyka  
založený v roce 1935 Pražským lingvistickým kroužkem  
ročník 70 číslo 1

A journal for the theory of language and language cultivation  
founded in 1935 by the Prague Linguistic Circle  
volume 70 number 1

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Vydává Ústav pro jazyk český Akademie věd České republiky, veřejná výzkumná instituce

Published by the Czech Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, a public research institution

Redakce/ Address: Slovo a slovesnost, Ústav pro jazyk český AV ČR, v. v. i., Letenská 4, 118 51 Praha 1, Czech Republic, tel. (+420) 225 391 441, e-mail <slovo@ujc.cas.cz>

Vychází čtyřikrát do roka/ Published quarterly

Toto číslo vyšlo v březnu 2009/ This issue was published in March 2009

**SLOVO A SLOVESNOST** je citováno v Bibliografii Językoznawstwa Slawistycznego, Bibliografii české lingvistiky, Bibliographie Linguistique/ Linguistic Bibliography, CEJSH, MLA International Bibliography, Scopus, The Year's Work of Modern Language Studies.

**SLOVO A SLOVESNOST** is cited in Bibliografia Językoznawstwa Slawistycznego [Slavic Linguistics Bibliography], Bibliografie české lingvistiky [Czech Linguistics Bibliography], Bibliographie Linguistique/ Linguistic Bibliography, CEJSH, MLA International Bibliography, Scopus, The Year's Work of Modern Language Studies.

Elektronická verze časopisu **SLOVO A SLOVESNOST** je dostupná na internetové adrese/ The electronic version of **SLOVO A SLOVESNOST** is available at: <<http://www.ceeol.com>> (Central and Eastern European Online Library).

Informace o předplatném podá a objednávky přijímá redakce Slova a slovesnosti a výhradní distributor firma MYRIS TRADE, s. r. o., P. O. Box 2, 142 01 Praha 4, tel. 234 035 200, fax: 234 035 207. Další distributorské firmy nejsou oprávněny titul v ČR šířit. Cena předplatného pro české předplatitele: 340 Kč.

Podávání novinových zásilek povolila Česká pošta, s. p., odštěpný závod Praha, č. nov 6204/97 ze dne 1. 4. 1997. – Reg. č. MK ČR E 559.

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Toto číslo je v prodeji v knihkupectví Fišer, Kaprova 10, 110 00 Praha 1, tel. 222 320 730, v prodejně Academia, Národní 7, 110 00 Praha 1, tel. 224 240 547, Václavské nám. 34, 110 00 Praha 1, tel. 224 223 511, nebo Na Florenci 3, 110 00 Praha 1, tel. 224 814 621.

Sazba: Marcela Hladíková. Tiskne PBtisk Příbram, Prokopská 8, 261 02 Příbram VI.

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# Jazyková různost jako konstitutivní rys jazyka

IVO VASILJEV

## Language diversity: a constitutive feature of language

**ABSTRACT:** The author submits that apart from external factors working towards diversity such as differentiation of languages, there are structural factors inherent to natural languages that generate diversity and which should be considered a constitutive feature of language. In order to facilitate the analysis of language diversity, a comprehensive model of language and communication, called anthropocentric, is proposed. It combines Ogden and Richards' semiotic triangle and Bühler's speech model in a basic case of communication between two individuals possessing the same language. Then, at least nine interfaces are identified where humans are presented with a number of equally acceptable alternative solutions for developing their language units, thus inevitably giving rise to diversity. Instances of such alternative solutions are then shown at the various interfaces, starting with ways of building the syllable and the word, then proceeding to the interfaces of lexical and syntactic meaning vs. structure of reality, of *signifié* and *signifiant*, of individual signs and the system of language, of *langue* vs. *parole*. Finally, it is suggested that the same alternatives that lead to language diversity also enable alternative solutions to specific problems of lexicon and grammar within individual languages, thus giving rise to various styles and supporting language change.

**Key words:** diversity of languages, constitutive feature, anthropocentric language model, arbitrariness, sign, *langue*, *parole*, phonology, system

**Klíčová slova:** různost jazyků, konstitutivní rys, antropocentrický model jazyka, arbitrárnost, znak, langue, parole, fonologie, systém

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# Afázie jako zdroj poznatků o fungování jazyka

HELENA LEHEČKOVÁ

## **Aphasia as a source of knowledge regarding the functioning of language**

**ABSTRACT:** The evidence concerning the neurophysiological organization of language can be obtained only indirectly, with one of the most important sources being aphasia. In this paper, I present some results from my long-term neurolinguistic research. First, I survey the manifestation of aphasia in different languages and offer a linguistic interpretation of these data. I argue that it is the typological character of the language which influences the symptoms. My cross-linguistic study showed that the decisive factors for evaluating aphasia in a language are: (a) the number of grammatical words; (b) the way in which grammatical morphemes are connected to the stem; (c) the extent of paradigms. I then focus on the grammatical errors in the spontaneous speech of Czech aphasics and discuss: (1) the distribution of errors among grammatical categories; (2) the hierarchy of forms within each category. Finally, I present a synthesis of the morpho-syntactic aphasic symptoms in Czech. The aim of my work is not only to describe aphasia, but also to shed some light on the functioning of language under aggravated conditions.

**Key words:** aphasia, agrammatism, typology

**Klíčová slova:** afázie, agramatismus, typologie

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## **Teorie optimality a slovotvorba**

### **Optimality Theory and word-formation**

**ABSTRACT:** The present article is a brief overview of some of the papers that have recently attempted to apply Optimality Theory to word-formation. After an introduction to the main ideas of OT, a survey of some of the most important constraints on word-formation processes is presented. Against the background of two French nouns, *avionneur* and *campaniste*, widely discussed in Dal & Namer (2005) and J. Štichauer (2006), respectively, it is argued that an OT account that would go beyond the well-established phonological constraints, trying to integrate some of the semantic ones, would encounter problems. In fact, it is not clear under what ranking and under what exact constraints other possible outputs (e.g. *avionniste* versus *avionneur*, *campanier* versus *campaniste*) are to be evaluated. Nevertheless, the idea of constraint interaction, based on a ranking of violable restrictions, is emphasized as an interesting framework quite different from the classic rule/exception dichotomy.

**Key words:** Optimality Theory, word-formation

**Klíčová slova:** teorie optimality, slovotvorba

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