

## ABSTRACT

The collection of theses entitled **Some tendencies in contemporary scientific text – the changing style of present-day theoretical discourse written in Czech** is focused on the latest stylistic trends within Czech theoretical communication. In a number of specialised studies the book offers close analyses of selected stylistic devices used in contemporary academic style written in Czech. Through sufficient evidence it endeavours to verify the (non)occurrence of subjectivised evaluative means; stronger interaction with the reader; traces of originality and distinctive authorial style. The specific purpose of this publication is to identify the (non)existence of linguistic concern deliberately used by the authors of contemporary Czech monological scientific writings to slacken (1) the relative comprehensiveness, lucidity and clarity; and (2) the emotional and stylistic neutrality of technical expression. The excerpted material includes texts featuring means to convey uncertainty, vagueness, ambiguity on the one hand, and, on the other hand, means serving an aesthetic (distinguishing) or persuasive function. The performed analyses yielded an insight into potential processes currently gaining footing in Czech theoretical discourse, that is processes resulting in individualisation and figurativeness of the professional communication; in shifting emphasis to progressive aspects; or interaction.

In order to achieve the intended targets, our research explored a representative corpus of monological scientific communication written in contemporary Czech. The corpus contained both team and authorial monographs divided into five groups of fields; specifically, texts produced in very precisely defined genres, delivering diverse theoretically technical content. The chosen discriminative principle of horizontal classification aimed at creating an intentionally differentiated sample of texts which should support, or potentially reject, assertions long accepted by both laics and professionals that there are (can be) differences in particular monitored objectives of Czech academic monological utterances written in the respective fields and, further, that the most striking differences can be anticipated between humanities and sciences. This book, among others, seeks to comprehend the process of (linguistic) differentiation facilitated by the corpus, which represents present-day scientific theoretical discourse. The process of differentiation is now perceived as one of the most conspicuous features in the latest development of Czech academic style. Our analyses jointly attempt to

comprehend the processes of unification, that is blending lexical devices of technical style with other stylistic areas.

The publication is divided into three parts. The introductory section consists of two chapters (*I. Theory and Methodology*; *II. The Terminologisation and Internationalisation of Standard Language in Contemporary Czech Scientific Texts*). The first chapter includes an exposition of the theory of scientific style; a specification of the targets and hypotheses; an introduction to the research methodology; a description of material base, its structure and the criteria for producing a representative textual corpus. The second chapter deals with significant lexical marks of the stylistic level of scientific texts, such as formality; notionality; strong terminological saturation of the text; and a higher proportion of foreign terminological and non-terminological words.

The second part of the monograph includes three studies (*I. Selected Quantitative Characteristics of the Syntactic Structure in Contemporary Czech Theoretical Scientific Texts*; *II. The Predicate in Contemporary Czech Theoretical Scientific Texts – Selected Quantitative Characteristics*; *III. The Question in Contemporary Czech Theoretical Scientific Texts*), which are focused on sentence structure. The chapters pay attention to selected syntactical characteristics of contemporary Czech theoretical scientific discourse; in particular, individual studies specialise in the simple sentence and the compound sentence; on the predicate; on the question, or even the rhetorical question, or the interrogatory utterance.

The third part of the book includes four chapters (*I. Conveying Similarity in Contemporary Czech Scientific Texts*; *II. Phraseological and Idiomatic Devices in Contemporary Czech Scientific Texts*; *III. The Attributive Adjective in Contemporary Czech Scientific Texts*; *IV. Expressional Accentuations in Quotes in Contemporary Czech Scientific Texts*). The studies focus on the particular means of subjectivised assessment; on greater interaction with the reader; on elements of originality or peculiarity of the authorial style in contemporary theoretical scientific monological communication written in Czech; namely, the simile; the metaphor; metonymy; phraseologisms; the attributive adjective; and various expressional accentuations of diverse linguistic devices set off by the quotation marks.

Under the title **Selected tendencies of contemporary scientific style – the changing style of theoretical scientific texts written in contemporary Czech**, this book offers a complete and condensed collection of studies that explore some indicative aspects of contemporary Czech monological scientific communication. The starting points for our enquiry were frequency analyses as well as detailed and comprehensive accounts of monographs representing monological scientific communication written in contemporary Czech. The primary purpose of the book is to inform the erudite target readership about the language and style used in contemporary Czech theoretical and technical texts. This publication may also attract the interest of professionals engaged in scientific communication in other fields than stylistics. The excerpts and quantitative characteristics of linguistic devices described in this volume can provide potential academic authors with useful feedback, instrumental in their own language practice.

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3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018, České Budějovice