

Title: Competition of Prepositional and Nonprepositional Case in Czech
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In inflectional languages many syntactic relations are expressed within a single word by changing the structure of that word. Czech nouns in earlier stages were able to express their syntactic functions by means of a case ending alone. However, the use of case forms accompanied by prepositions has increased significantly and now appears to prevail over the nonprepositional use of case.

In this contribution I focus on three key questions:

(1) Can the increased use of prepositions in Czech be considered steps towards analytic structure? Obviously, Czech still maintains the synthetic characteristic of a case ending determined by a preposition. However the preposition itself also represents case information.

(2) How can a syntactic innovation of present-day Czech – that some prepositional uses yield their object function to a nonprepositional use of the Accusative Case – be explained? The verbs *diskutovat*, *uvažovat*, *zmínit se* previously used to allow only Locative Case with a preposition (*o něčem*) as their rightvalent argument; however, by syntactic contamination with the model *projednávat něco*, they now allow the new use of the Accusative form *něco*.

(3) What are the language-internal and -external factors for the increased frequency of prepositional usage? The spread of prepositional usage in Czech has been strongly affected by foreign models, mainly by German in the period of the Czech National Revival. Shortly thereafter, Czech linguistic purism appeared to protect the purity of the Czech language, and that served to eliminate coined expressions which are likely to be from German.

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