

The Word Order of Demonstrative Pronouns in Noun Phrases in Old Czech

In my presentation I am describing the word order of demonstrative pronouns in noun phrases in the 14th and 15th century, that is, from the first period of prose texts in the Czech language. The research contains the following genres: Bible translation, fiction, medical book, code of law, travel book, historiography.

From the perspective of methodology, the most significant source of inspiration is a publication by Olga Navrátilová, *The Word Order of Possessive Pronouns in Old Czech* (2018), which presents the first comprehensive research on the topic of word order of pronouns in noun phrases in the history of Czech language. Nevertheless, I work also with publications representing the tradition of Czech functional depending syntax (e.g. Daneš 1985, Sgall – Hajičová 1980, 1986, Grepl – Karlík 1998) and with current foreign researches (e.g. Bhat 2007, Dryer 2007).

In current Czech language demonstrative pronouns are almost without exception placed in the prenominal position (*můj pes*). But in Old Czech they appear in a variety of positions – in the prenominal position (*tento císař* GestaM [1v]), the postnominal position (*král tento* GestaM [6v]) or the circum position (*ten zákon spravedlivý* GestaM [13v]).

Existing studies on the topic of my research (e.g. Uhlířová 1992, Navrátilová 2012) show that the majority of demonstratives are placed in a prenominal position (percentage is 70–99 % of cases). Therefore, I search for reasons for placing demonstratives in a postnominal position or circum position as the percentage of them significantly differs in texts analysed so far. The studies indicate some tendencies of placing demonstratives in this position conditioned by reference of the pronoun (endophora/exophora), by their position in the structure of the noun phrase (dependency on the main noun of the structure or on the genitive noun phrase) or by a functional sentence perspective. These tendencies I use as hypotheses for my own research.

The goal of the research is to analyse this phenomena in texts of various genres in Old Czech and as a result to create a picture of its comprehensive behaviour. The research is also focused on how the above-mentioned factors¹ influences the word order of demonstratives.

As most of the text of 14th century and many from the following century are translations from Latin, one of the key parameters of this research is whether the source text is original or translation, and if a translation how much it depends on the original Latin text.

¹ Reference of pronoun, position in the phrase structure etc.

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