

Between Syntax and Morphology: German deverbal compounds and their equivalents in Czech

Compounding is considered a highly productive and widespread device in Germanic languages and especially in German (Gaeta/Schlücker 2012: 2). The definition of compounding varies for different languages and it raises rather complex questions concerning the delimitation from other word-formation processes and multi-word expressions (Gaeta/Schlücker 2012: 11ff., Schlücker/Finkbeiner 2019, Schlücker 2019, Martinová 2015). Additionally, it accentuates the issues of the definition of word and morph and the role of lexicalization (cf. definition of compounding in Fabb 1998 and Gaeta/Ricca 2009). In recent time, there has been an increasing interest in translation research of German compounds into different languages (Cordeiro et al. 2019; Clematide et al. 2018), however, comprehensive research for Czech is still lacking.

The main purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the equivalents of some deverbal German compound nouns in Czech, focussing on the broad spectrum of their structures. The study is based on compounds with action nominals as the last part, specifically with substantivized infinitive (*Flurplattenklirren* ‘clatter of hallway tiles’) or deverbals ending in suffix *-ung* (*Risikobewertung* ‘risk assessment’, *Eilmeldung* ‘breaking news’). Data were obtained from the parallel corpus of CNC (InterCorp v15), the compound nouns were automatically selected from the list of lemmas sorted by frequency by means of the morphological analyser SMOR. The compound nouns with the highest and lowest frequency were examined.

For the German compounds, the number of parts of the compound and the syntactic role of the compound were distinguished. For Czech equivalents, the type of the structure, number of words, (dis)continuity of the parts in the sentence (*Dynamitfischen über einem Korallenriff* ‘blast fishing over a coral reef’/*lovit na korálových útesech ryby dynamitem*), evtl. variations of the equivalents were examined. Besides the expected constructions such as noun+noun.GEN (*Brötchenbacken* ‘baking buns’/*pečení housek*), noun+prepositional phrase, adjective+noun (*Fehlanpassung* ‘Maladaptation’/*špatná adaptace*), infinitive constructions and dependent clauses (*beim Salatwaschen* ‘while washing lettuce’/*když omývala salát*) form a significant part of the equivalents. An important feature that is also characteristic for the structural differences between these two languages is the contextual ellipsis in equivalents (e.g. *Zollverfahren* ‘customs procedure’/*(daný) režim* ‘(this) procedure’).

This approach also allows to characterise the role of lexicalization: the most frequent compounds have usually a higher degree of lexicalization in comparison with the compounds with the lowest frequency. Furthermore, the equivalents in Czech mirror this relation, cf. the high frequent compound *Inverkehrbringen* ‘placing on the market’, which corresponds with the lexicalized multi-word expression *uvvedení na trh* (with perfective verbal noun), but also with the other aspectual version *uvádění na trh* (with imperfective verbal noun).

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