

Displacement and motion can be seen as fundamental in human communication, as they are the point of departure for many paths of grammaticalization as well as lexicalization. On the other hand, the usage of prefixed motion verbs differs in the closely related West Slavic languages and even in their original local meaning. It therefore seems essential to view these verbs in a broader context.

Slavic *pre-/prze-/pře-* is used in three distinct displacement meanings which can be described as “through”, “over” and “along” (Oertle 2016, 244–246). Czech additionally features the prefix *pro-* with a similar range of local meanings. Most West Slavic languages use the preposition *k* for local relations, while Polish does not have this preposition at all. Interestingly, in Polish there is a special meaning of verbs of motion with the prefix *pod-*, which denotes an approach to a certain place and is often connected with the preposition *pod* or *do* (Brankačec et al, forthcoming). These constructions are absent in other West Slavic languages or they are much less frequent (in Slovak). Finally, we observe a crucial role of local adverbials in the semantic specification of predicates. This is most important in Upper Sorbian, where several verb particles are used on the verb formation level (Giger 1998 and 1999, Toops 1993, Pohončowa 2016, Brankačec 2009). In addition, Upper Sorbian verbal aspect seems to be grammaticalized to a lower degree than in the other West Slavic languages (Scholze 2008, 239f.; 254f.).

In our paper, we focus on examples of Czech *přejít k* with the local meaning “to go over to” and its equivalents in parallel texts in other West Slavic languages. Departing from a query of Czech *přejít k* in the InterCorp (v14 and 15), we analyze the Slovak, Polish, and, if available, Upper Sorbian counterparts of those predicates, which have a displacement meaning “to go over to”.

The examples suggest that each language typically uses the individual elements in a different weighting to represent the meaning of the displacement situation, supporting the hypothesis of Beavers et al. (2009). Our goal is to characterize the typical construction for the given displacement situation, where the semantic and grammatical contribution of the verbal stem, the prefix, adverbials, and prepositional phrases in each West Slavic language are illustrated and compared. Compare the example from the translations of D. Adams “Hitchhiker of the Universe”:

Cz: Spěšně **přešel ke druhému** zhroucenému **tělu** a zjistil, že se mu přihodilo přesně totéž ...

Us: Wón **spěchaše překi k tamnemu** na zemi ležacemu **mužej** a zwěści, zo bě jeho cyle samsna njemóžnosť trjehiła ...

Pl: **Podbiegł do drugiego** martwego **ciała** i odkrył, że jemu również zdarzyła się dokładnie ta sama nieprawdopodobna rzecz ...

En: He **hurried over to the other** prone **figure**, and discovered that exactly the same impossible thing had happened to him ...

References:

Beavers – Levin – Wei Tham 2009: The typology of motion expressions revisited, *J. Linguistics*, 1 – 47, DOI: 10.1017/S0022226709990272

Brankačkec 2009: *Verbale Präfixe im Obersorbischen. Verbpartikeln im älteren Sorbischen und ihre Entsprechungen im modernen Sorbischen*. Unveröffentlichte Dissertation, Karlsuniversität Prag.

Brankačkec et al. (forthcoming): Symetrie a asymetrie v sémantice: K prefixaci sloves označujících pohyb v západoslovanských jazycích. In: *Symetria a asymetria v jazykovej komunikácii*. Banská Bystrica forthcoming.

Giger 1998: Zu Lehnübersetzungen und Entlehnungen deutscher postponierbarer Präverbien in sorbischen Dialekten In: Locher, J. P. (ed.): *Schweizerische Beiträge zum XII. Internationalen Slavistenkongress in Krakau, August 1998*. Bern, 129–170.

Giger 1999: Lehnübersetzungen und Entlehnungen deutscher postponierbarer Präverbien im älteren Obersorbischen In: Böttger, K. – Giger, M. – Wiemer, B. (eds.): *Beiträge der Europäischen Slavistischen Linguistik (POLYSLAV) 2*. München, 118–128.

Oertle, S. 2016: Die slavischen Verbalpräfixe und Präpositionen: Polysemie und Grammatikalisierung. (Slavistische Beiträge 502). Gabriele Schäfer Verlag, Herne.

Pohončowa 2016: Upper Sorbian. In: Müller, Peter O. – Ohnheiser, Ingeborg – Olsen, Susan – Rainer, Franz (eds.): *Word-Formation. An International Handbook of the Languages of Europe*. Vol. 1–5 HSK 40.1-5: Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science. Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft. Berlin/Boston: Mouton de Gruyter 2015 (1–3)/2016 (4–5) (Word-formation in the individual European languages. Indoeuropean HSK40.4) 2811–2831.

Scholze 2008: *Das grammatische System der obersorbischen Umgangssprache im Sprachkontakt*. Bautzen: Domowina.

Toops 1993: Lexicalization of Upper Sorbian Preverbs: Temporal – Aspectual Ramifications and the Delimitation of German Influence. *Germano-Slavica* VII / VIII (1992–1993), 3–22.

Intercorp v13: Rosen, A. – Vavřín, M. – Zasina, A. J.: Korpus InterCorp – čeština, verze 13 z 1. 11. 2020. Ústav Českého národního korpusu FF UK, Praha 2020. Dostupný z WWW <http://www.korpus.cz>