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# On Distinction between Phraseology Conceptions in a General Monolingual Dictionary and in a Special Phraseological Dictionary

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## Abstract

This contribution focuses on the comparison of approaches to the treatment of phraseology in the Academic Dictionary of Contemporary Czech (*Akademický slovník současné češtiny*) and in the special Czech Dictionary of Idioms (*Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky*). In the introduction the paper briefly presents the approach to the treatment of phraseology in previous Czech monolingual dictionaries, advantages of this approach and possible difficulties which the upcoming dictionary attempts to avoid. The contribution also deals with the definitions of phrasemes in the monolingual and in the special dictionary and with the selection of included units, which differs in both dictionaries. The fundamental lexicographical basis in the monolingual dictionary is one-word lexical unit, whereas for the special dictionary it is the whole multi-word lexical unit. It also operates with different extent possibilities. The paper therefore presents differences between basic forms of a lemma, structures of a phraseme entry in both dictionaries and briefly compares main differences between approaches to the meaning explanation and exemplification.

**Keywords:** phraseology; lexicography; monolingual dictionary; dictionary-making principles; entry structure

## 1 Introduction

Since the beginning of 2012, the department of contemporary lexicology and lexicography of the Institute of the Czech Language of the Academy of Sciences of the CR, v. v. i. (hereinafter referred to as ÚJČ), has been working on a new general monolingual dictionary of contemporary Czech under the title *Akademický slovník současné češtiny* (hereinafter referred to as ASSČ). It is a medium-sized dictionary with the expected number of 120 000–150 000 lexical units. Its objective is to register the widespread vocabulary of contemporary Czech.

When defining the concept of the monolingual dictionary, it is necessary to answer a question how to deal with phraseology processing. Phraseology processing in a monolingual dictionary is one of the important lexicographical issues, and it is also a challenge. Czech phraseology can boast a remarkable (compare Hladká 2011, Jarošová 2011, Klégr 2010, Kučerová 1986) four-volume Czech Dictionary of Idioms (*Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky*; 2nd revised and complemented edition 2009; hereinafter referred to as SČFI) that presents contemporary Czech phraseology and idiomaticity in relative completeness and with very thorough description. Therefore, it may seem that an existence of this publication ensures a sufficient description of this vocabulary area and the upcoming ASSČ can deal with phraseology to a limited extent only, following the tradition of

phraseology processing in preceding monolingual dictionaries. However, the approach to phraseology in ASSČ is different. In accordance with existing lexicological-lexicographical development, the emphasis is put on autonomy of multi-word lexical units, which is also reflected in fullness of processing detail.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of this contribution is to present the approach to phraseology in the upcoming ASSČ and to compare this conception with phraseology processing in the above mentioned special phraseological dictionary SČFI.

## 2 Phraseology in General Monolingual Dictionaries

The expected extent of the ASSČ is 120–150 thousands lexical units. The upcoming dictionary will be published gradually in electronic form, however, the printed form is also planned. The ASSČ follows the general monolingual dictionaries created in ÚJČ during the 20th century. However, some of the conceptual matters need to be dealt with differently, because the lexicological-lexicographical methodology has been in constant progress, also in the area of multi-word lexical units.

Previous general monolingual dictionaries paid attention to phrasemes as vocabulary units which are stabilized both from the point of view of the form and meaning. The way of phraseology processing in these dictionaries may cause its disunity. In the entry phrasemes are placed in a special phraseological section, behind graphical sign ♦. In the Dictionary of Standard Czech Language (*Slovník spisovného jazyka českého*; 1960–1971; hereinafter referred to as SSJČ) phrasemes are placed at the end of an exemplification section of a particular meaning of one-word lexeme; e.g.:

(1) železo -a s. (6. j. -e. -u) 1. *nejběžnější kov šedavé barvy, dobře tvárný, z jehož slitin se vyrábí většina strojů, náradí ap.: měď, ž. a jiné kovy (...)* ♦ mohl by železo lámat *je silný, zdravý; (...)* 2. *výrobek, výrobky ze železa (oceli), železné zboží, železný předmět, nástroj ap.: vratá pobitá ž-em (...)* ♦ expr. mít peněz jako želez *velmi mnoho; (...)*

(‘He’s as strong as an ox *he’s strong, healthy; have pots of money, be rolling in it very much*’).

In the Dictionary of Standard Czech for School and the Public (*Slovník spisovné češtiny pro školu a veřejnost*; 1st edition 1978; 2nd, revised and complemented edition 1994; 3rd, revised edition 2003; hereinafter referred to as SSČ) they are placed at the end of an entry of one-word lexeme; e.g. after all four meanings of the lexeme *bouře*:

(2) bouře -e ž. (...) ♦ *kdo seje vítr, sklízí bouři;*

(‘They that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind.’).

However, some of the phrasemes are put outside the phraseological section, in the exemplification section behind a semicolon and a sign *přen.* (‘figuratively’); e.g.:

(3) SSJČ: Amerika, -y ž. 1. *jeden z dílů světa (...)*; objevit A-u, *přen. něco nového, iron. dávno známého (...)*

(‘discover the wheel, figur. *something new, iron. for a long time familiar*’).

The giving of phrasemes by particular meaning of a one-word lexical unit is criticized e.g. by

<sup>1</sup> The way of processing in ASSČ could especially make use of phraseology treatment in the Czech neological dictionaries (SN 1 1998, SN 2 2004), which give lemma, stylistic information, meaning and exemplification of usage by the compiled phraseological units.

František Čermák (1995: 118). It is impossible to match a phraseme with particular meaning of a one-word lexeme, since it is impossible to take it apart into meanings of particular components, it is necessary to interpret its meaning as a whole unit.

A certain level of disunity in a form of the meaning explanation occurs in the previous dictionaries as well – a full meaning explanation is used for some phrasemes, while explanation using a comment is used for others, i.e. explanation of the meaning is focused on a semantically shifted component;<sup>2</sup> e.g.:

(4) SSJČ: mít básnické střevo *nadání*;

(‘to have a poetic bent *talent*’).

Possibilities of the specialized lexicographical software Alexis, which is used for creation of the dictionary (DWS),<sup>3</sup> partly help to avoid such kinds of disunity. The advantage of the database processing is a possibility of quick browsing of correlative entries, processing of phrasemes on separate cards, which are enclosed to one-word component afterwards, „guarding“ during modifications of phrasemes with identical meanings etc. To avoid a disunity in form of meaning explanation, ASSČ strictly uses full explanation (interpretative periphrasis) for all phrasemes.

The chosen approach to phraseology processing in ASSČ corresponds with previous monolingual dictionaries practice applying the rule that the fundamental lexicographical basis is one-word lexical unit. Phrasemes are processed as a part of one-word entry microstructure, they are placed at the end of an entry of all autosemantic components (and synsemantic components if they stand at the beginning of the lemma) behind a graphical sign ◇; e.g. phraseme *hlad je nejlepší kuchař* by one-word lexemes *hlad*, *být*, *dobrý* and *kuchař*:

(5) ◇ *hlad je nejlepší kuchař* (příslově) hladovému chutná všechno;

(‘Hunger is the best sauce (saying) everything tastes good to a hungry person’).

However, this way of processing has also some disadvantages. Compared to previous dictionaries, which gives phraseological units in one-word lexemes just selectively, some of the one-word entries in ASSČ could include a big number of phrasemes (or another multi-word lexical units), so the entry may look not very well arranged or disorganised in that case.

### 3 Phraseology in ASSČ vs. SČFI

#### 3.1 Definition of a Phraseme

Before the processing itself, it is necessary to define the phraseology conception of the dictionary. Subsequently, the conception influences the selection of phrasemes that will be included in the dictionary. The phraseology conceptions in ASSČ and SČFI are different. The phraseology conception of František Čermák, who is a lead editor of SČFI along with Jiří Hronek and Jaroslav Machač, is based on a broader definition of the phraseme. Phraseological unit is a unique connection of at least two components in which one (or all) works a different way than in another phrase (or more phrases), or it occurs in only one expression (or in a few).<sup>4</sup> A characteristic, but not a necessary

<sup>2</sup> For issues of processing multi-word lexical units in general and special monolingual dictionaries see Opavská 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Elaborately see Barbierik, Děngeová, Holcová Habrová, Jarý, Liška, Lišková & Virius 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Translation RN. Original quotation:

attribute is frequent figurativity of a phraseme. The conception emphasizes that every component of a phraseme is liable to anomaly, which is apparent especially in collocational restriction (SČFI 3: 9). Therefore, there is not any explicit differentiation between phrasemes and so called quasi-phrasemes in the dictionary, that means for example expressions with a desemantised component (*bejt napakovanej* – ‘to be rich, to have a lot of money’), expressions with collocational restriction of their components (*zarytě mlčet* – ‘refuse to open one’s mouth’) or verbonominal expressions with an abstract substantive (*dávat pozor* – ‘watch out’) (Čermák 2007: 42). Unlike that in ASSČ narrower phraseme defining is applied. Phrasemes are understood as units with secondary nominative function.<sup>5</sup> Basic phraseme characteristics includes:

- a fixed form (with a certain extent of variability)
- reproducibility
- frequent (but not necessary) emotionality/expressivity
- figurativity
- semantic and denotative vagueness
- restriction of grammatical and textual functions.

Unlike SČFI, ASSČ does not evaluate quasi-phrasemes as phrasemes.

### 3.2 Material Basis

Because of the narrower conception based on the above mentioned nomination-semantic and functional criteria the selection of idioms included in the list of ASSČ entries differs, not all phrasemes from SČFI are considered to be phrasemes in ASSČ.

The choice of phrasemes also differs because of different material basis the dictionaries are based on. SČFI makes use of a whole range of lexicographical works, as well as of excerption of approximately a hundred Czech and foreign translated novels and dramatic texts published after 1960. It also draws from the lexical archive of ÚJČ and from records of spoken language (SČFI 4: 14).

In ASSČ the material basis is different, it is synchronic corpus of written texts SYN that is the primary base for selection of phrasemes, then corpora of the ORAL rank, the electronic archive of Newton Media company and the Internet are used too. The phrasemes processed in previous monolingual dictionaries and in SČFI are compared with entries received from these sources and evaluated on the basis of phraseology conception of ASSČ. The adequately frequent and usualised phrasemes are then included. Besides that phrasemes with relatively low frequency in these sources which are, however, assessed as generally known by the members of the lexicographic team are included afterwards too.

Phraseology processing in ASSČ cannot be as detailed as in the SČFI special phraseological dictionary, the reason is the planned extent and the type of our dictionary. Nevertheless, we want to process the multi-word lexical units more thoroughly and more systematically than in previous Czech monolingual dictionaries. The fact is that the upcoming dictionary will include a number of

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*jedinečné spojení minimálně dvou prvků, z nichž některý (popř. žádný) nefunguje stejným způsobem v jiném spojení (resp. více spojeních), popř. se vyskytuje ve výrazu jediném (resp. několika málo).* (Filipec & Čermák 1985: 177)

<sup>5</sup> These units describe specific substance indirectly, by means of periphrasis, figurativity or simile (Translation RN. Original quotation: “*označují určitou skutečnost nepřímou, opisem, obrazem, přirovnáním*”, Machač 1967: 141) and are prototypically used for designation of certain situation (comp. Horecký 1997).

phrasemes which are generally known and used but SČFI does not reflect them. It happened either because of different material basis (see above) or because the relatively new phrasemes did not get into the extensive version of SČFI.

### 3.3 Entry Structure

The basic difference is, however, a different lexicographic basis of the two dictionaries. For ASSČ it is a one-word lexeme to whose entry a phraseme is connected while for SČFI it is the whole multi-word lexical unit. Therefore phrasemes in ASSČ are processed as part of an entry structure of a one-word component, in SČFI they are individual entries of the list of entries.<sup>6</sup>

SČFI distinguishes several types of entries, their structure is more or less of the same character. Typical entries with full structure include:

- lemma
- stylistic and grammatical information
- designation of transformation
- description of the context
- description of valency
- meaning of the entry
- exemplification.

Additional notes comprise:

- more information on usage, etymology and motivation
- selection of synonyms, opposites and related expressions
- equivalents in four languages.<sup>7</sup>

Peripheral (less frequent) entries are introduced only as a form with potential context and meaning. Reference-entries are used as references to a more common variant.

The possibilities of a monolingual dictionary in which a phraseme is a part of an entry structure of a one-word entry are limited. Nevertheless, ASSČ puts emphasis on autonomy of individual phrasemes which is reflected in full structure of a phraseme entry that is the same as a one-word entry structure.<sup>8</sup> The processed phraseme's structure includes:

- lemma
- stylistic characteristic
- meaning
- exemplification (in most cases; see hereinafter)
- etymological note (in a small number of cases<sup>9</sup>).

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<sup>6</sup> Only part of so called quasi-idioms (specifically verbonominal phrases with an abstractum) is processed within one-word component (abstract substantive) (to their processing see SČFI 3: 11).

<sup>7</sup> The entry structure in fourth volume includes also a characteristic of intonation (see SČFI 4: 12).

<sup>8</sup> With the exception of giving synonyms and opposites – we do not give synonymous and antonymous phrasemes within a phraseme-entry.

<sup>9</sup> So called etymological note is used so far only by culturally motivated phrasemes (winged phrases), by which it is convenient to quote the source, e.g.:

(6) ♦ *je něco / cosi shnilého ve státě dánském* kniž. děje se tu něco nesprávného, něco podstatného tu není v

### 3.4 Lemma

The basic form of the lemma in ASSČ and SČFI is more or less identical – both dictionaries give the lemma in a form which is possible to consider as representative (neutral), i.e. mostly in the singular or with a verb in the infinitive form, or it can be given in the most common form. In addition, concerning the lemma, SČFI indicates a possibility of modification of a component (for nouns in number and grammatical gender, for verbs in other grammatical categories; for more detail see SČFI: 14) using a sign<sup>o</sup>; e.g.:

(7) Aby tě<sup>o</sup> husa koplal;

(‘How stupid can you get?, I could kill you!’).

Both dictionaries coincidentally introduce syntagmatic (facultative) variations in round brackets (8), (9) and separate paradigmatic variants by a slash (10), (11) or by a sign *n.* – ‘or’ – in case the variations are incongruous (12), (13); e.g.:

(8) SČFI: (staré) zlaté časy;

(‘the good old days’);

(9) ASSČ:  $\diamond$  *spálit za sebou (všechny) mosty*;

(‘burn one’s bridges’);

(10) SČFI: lapat / zalapat po dechu;

(‘gasp for breath’);

(11) ASSČ:  $\diamond$  (*být*) *chodící / živá encyklopedie*;

(‘to be a walking encyclopedia’);

(12) SČFI: být do práce j. čert n. dělat j. čtyři;

(‘work like hell/mad’);

(13) ASSČ:  $\diamond$  *lehká dívka n. lehké děvče*;

(‘loose woman’).

The processing in ASSČ is specific in a sense that the phraseme with full representative form of lemma is not connected to any of the components (i.e. other paradigmatic variations of this one-word component are not given in the lemma). Both dictionaries use a substitute verb *dělat*, *udělat* (‘do’) in a lemma if necessary; e.g.:

(14) SČFI: dělat<sup>o</sup> něco j. když bičem mrská / práská n. j. by bičem mrskal / práskal;

(15) ASSČ:  $\diamond$  [*dělat něco*], *jak(o) když bičem mrská*;

(‘do a job in double-quick time’).

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pořádku: (...) Citát ze hry Hamlet od W. Shakespeara.

(‘Something is rotten in the state of Denmark lit. there is something wrong happening, something substantial is not all right (...) Quote from the play Hamlet by W. Shakespeare.’).

The use of an etymological note by other types of phrasemes has been an open-ended question so far.

### 3.5 Meaning Interpretation

The conception of the meaning explanation of phraseological units is different. SČFI divides the semantic section into two parts. The context (description of the roles or status of the participants, their emotional relations, description of circumstances, etc.) which specifies the meaning is given in brackets before the actual meaning. Both parts form an indivisible unit (for more detail on processing see SČFI 3: 18).

In ASSČ, the meaning explanation is briefer. The typical context, which is given in brackets before the meaning in SČFI, is indicated by means of exemplification in ASSČ. The meaning corresponds with SČFI in a sense that it indicates a potentiality of other specifications and meaning nuances using limitative qualifiers (*ap.* – ‘and the like’, *popř.* – ‘or else’ – and others); e.g.:

(16) SČFI: smát se / chechtat se / řehtat se j. blázen / divý (kol; důraz) 0 ot, neg, pas, imp (*Člověk, obv. v důsledku vnější komické příčiny, při představení, filmu, anekdotě ap.*) smát se nespoutaně, hlasitě a velmi živě (...);

(‘laugh like a mad / laugh oneself silly (...) (*a person, usually in the consequence of external comic cause, during a performance, movie, anecdote and the like*) laugh unrestrainedly, loudly and very vividly (...)’);

(17) ASSČ: *♦ brát něco na lehkou váhu* přehlížet nebo ignorovat něco a nepovažovat to za důležité, popř. nebezpečné;

(‘treat something lightly – look through something, ignore it and not consider it important, or else dangerous’).

Because of semantic vagueness of phrasemes the absolutely exact meaning cannot be often given.

### 3.6 Exemplification

The conception of exemplification corresponds with SČFI in a sense that ASSČ, unlike previous monolingual dictionaries, includes it in all phrasemes (with the exception of sayings, adages and weather sayings). All meanings of the phraseme are exemplified by 1–3 illustrations (exceptionally in the case of high variability of components by more illustrations). Phrasemes in SČFI are also mostly exemplified. Exemplification in both dictionaries illustrates the typical usage and the meaning of a phraseme, it also shows the usage of particular variations and respects stylistic characteristic of a phraseme.

The fundamental difference between both conceptions lies in a selection of illustrative examples. SČFI uses authorial, non-literary examples which are created with regard to typical contexts and communication situations.<sup>10</sup> As a reason for using authorial examples, SČFI mentions the fact that a big part of phrasemes live only in the spoken language and they never got into written literary works (SČFI 3: 20).

<sup>10</sup> SČFI partially uses for exemplification synchronous corpus of written texts SYN in fourth volume, see SČFI 4: 23.

ASSČ uses mainly synchronic corpus of written texts SYN and other sources (see above). Examples are therefore authentic (adjusted by reduction or by change of unsuitable word order if necessary), unauthorial, in accordance with principles of exemplification in the whole dictionary.

**přejít° od slov / řeči k činům**  
 (neutr; přízn, pochv) 0 ot, pas, imp, imp neg,  
 prez, 1. sg  
 (Čl., skupina ap. po ukončené diskusi a zvl. krás-  
 ných, popř. poněkud idealistických stanoviscích,  
 postojích a plánech na něco:) začít jednat a usku-  
 tečňovat (okázale) proklamované myšlenky a cíle.  
 ♦ Volně podle bible, srov. Mt 23,3. ■ A skutek  
 utek Cf uskutečnit – myšlenku, uvést něco ve sku-  
 tek / v život, vtělit myšlenku v čin  
 Ⓐ stop talking and start doing, translate words  
 into action(s) Ⓝ von Worten zu Taten übergehen  
 Ⓕ passer des paroles aux actes Ⓖ перейти от  
 слов к делу

Figure 1: Example of a SČFI entry (SČFI 3: 734).

♦ *přejít / přistoupit / překročit od slov k činům začít  
 jednat a uskutečňovat dosud jen slovně vyjadřované  
 myšlenky a cíle, popř. výhrůžky: v otázce snižování  
 deficitu státního rozpočtu musí vláda přejít od slov  
 k činům; pokud dům ohrožuje bezpečnost chodců,  
 může radnice přistoupit od slov k činům a majitele  
 pokutovat; po létech planých slibů vlastník hotelu  
 překročil od slov k činům a začal s rekonstrukcí*

Figure 2: Example of a phraseme-entry (ASSČ).

## 4 Conclusion

The contribution presents some of the differences in phraseology processing in a general monolingual dictionary and in a special phraseological dictionary. It compares a broader definition of a phraseme in SČFI with a narrower definition of a phraseme in ASSČ. It shows the material basis the dictionaries are based on, differences between entry structures of both dictionaries, detailness of meaning explanation and the way of selection of illustrative examples. Detailness of the processing in ASSČ differs from existing monolingual dictionaries, current lexicological-lexicographical practice reveals the need of more thorough description of phrasemes and emphasising their autonomy. During lexicographical work certain specification of a presented conception may occur.



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