

Martin Adam
**Presentation Sentences
(Syntax, Semantics and FSP)**

(Brno: Masaryk University, 2013). 225 pp.

The Czech tradition of research in the Functional Sentence Perspective, associated chiefly with the name of Jan Firbas, the Brno scholar, has been enriched by a notable contribution. Martin Adam's recent monograph develops its framework by scrutinising relatively rare Presentation scale sentences. The reader would recall that these were delimited by Firbas as those which are primarily intended to introduce new, i.e., rhematic subjects on the scene of discourse. Adam's monograph, called *Presentation Sentences (Syntax, Semantics and FSP)*, is a corpus-based study giving their typology and exploring patterns of their use. The research is established on 1 000 instances of Presentation sentences, drawn from a corpus of over two hundred thousand words. The corpus itself was composed of two subcorpora of similar size, instantiating two registers, viz. biblical and fiction narratives. The Presentation scale sentences were found to constitute less than 10% in the overall corpus, with slightly higher share in biblical discourse.

The monograph consists of six chapters including the Conclusion. After the introductory chapter providing the theoretical and research background of the study, where the objectives are set and where the data, methods and procedures are described, the second chapter focuses on the English verb, analysing separately its morpho-syntactic, syntactic-semantic and semantic aspects. Readers not particularly familiar with the Czech tradition of FSP will undoubtedly appreciate chapter three which recapitulates some of its most significant concepts and tenets without which the understanding of the monograph as well as the appreciation of its essential merits would be impaired. It should be stressed, however, that the author has demonstrated a sound orientation in the field, for he familiarises the reader with a number of relevant approaches to FSP and related topics chiefly within its Czech research tradition. In chapter four, Adam provides a classification of Presentation sentences and identifies altogether their four distinct types (i.e., existential construction; rhematic subject in preverbal position; fronted adverbial & S-V inversion; and locative Th-subject), together with a number of their subtypes.

He examines their distribution and shares in each of the subcorpora separately only to arrive at the comparison of the findings across the subcorpora. Chapter five, called Syntactic-Semantic analysis of the PR-Verbs, offers an insight into the verbs featuring in the data under examination. Not only are all the verbs inventoried, but in addition to this, two distinct subclasses of these verbs are identified. Apart from verbs which embody the presentation function prototypically, there are also numerous verbs which perform this role only secondarily and in adequate contexts. The chapter offers a detailed analysis and discussion of the findings for each of the four Presentation scale types separately. The conclusions of the monographs, on the typology of Presentation sentences, on the syntactic, semantic and FSP markers of the enclosed PR-verbs, and on the distribution and rates in both the subcorpora, are convincing and are formulated in a succinct way. Naturally, in addition to the foregoing, the monograph provides other conventional sections enhancing its convenience (e.g., a list of abbreviations and symbols, prologue, references, summaries in Czech and in English, and an index), of which the reader is likely to welcome especially the two appendices, featuring a complete inventory of all the instances of Presentation scales detected in the subcorpora, together with the survey and classification of all the verbs employed.

The aforementioned should be enough to conclude that Adam's corpus-based monograph is a substantial contribution to the understanding of these rarer types of sentences, providing a lens for a better grasp of their syntactic, semantic and FSP properties. Apart from the subtle typology of these sentences it gives the characteristics of the two verb groups they feature, and identifies their register-specific traits. In addition, the findings of the monograph further our knowledge of the two narrative registers explored. Being couched in a style which is both erudite and easy to read, the monograph is bound to be welcomed by a wide range of readers seeking further insight into the area of Functional Sentence Perspective.

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