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The sentence/clause beginnings in English and Czech

THE SENTENCE/CLAUSE BEGINNINGS IN ENGLISH AND CZECH

Eva Golková

This paper is based on a consistent comparison of English originals with their Czech translations and of Czech originals with their English translations. The corpus consists of 4,800 sentences/clauses, half of which are taken from fictional prose, the other half from factual, non-fictional prose.[1]

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[1] For the corpus, 24 books were used, each of them yielding (the first) 200 (comparable) sentences/clauses. They are as follows:

THE ENGLISH ORIGINAL AND ITS CZECH TRANSLATION

— FICTION
LL — Laurie Lee, *Cider with Rosie* (Harmondsworth 1964), *Jablečné víno s Rozárkou, transl. by Břetislav Hodek* (Prague 1983);
CPS — C. P. Snow, *A coat of varnish* (Harmondsworth 1984), *Krycí barva*, transl. by Zora Wolfová (Prague 1986);
WSM — W. S. Maugham, *Cakes and ale, or The skeleton in the cupboard* (London 1949), *Veselice aneb Kostlivec ve skříni*, transl. by Irena Moravcová (Prague 1975);

— NON-FICTION
TTR — T. T. Rice, *Ancient arts of Central Asia* (London 1965), *Umění Střední Asie*, transl. by M. Žilina (Prague 1973);
JAC — J. A. Campbell, *Why do chemical reactions occur?* (New Jersey 1965), *Proč probíhají chemické reakce?*, transl. by F. Zemánek (Prague 1972);
CWM — C. W. Mills, *The sociological imagination* (New York 1961), *Sociologická imaginace*, transl. by V. Dušek (Prague 1968);

THE CZECH ORIGINAL AND ITS ENGLISH TRANSLATION

— FICTION
FK — František Kožík, *Největší z Pierotů* (Prague 1939), *Pierrot*, transl. by Dora Round (London 1942);

The objective of the paper is to characterize the sentence/clause beginning in English and Czech from the point of view of a) its syntactic function, b) its function in FSP (functional sentence perspective).

The traditional syntactic functions are the subject, the predicate, the complement, the object and the adverbial. The disengaged sentence element, the sentence adverb (disjunct), the introductory particle, the connective adverb (conjunct), and especially the conjunction show a special relation to the clause structure and are therefore treated separately.

As for FSP, I adopt the approach elaborated by Jan Firbas (see esp. 1956, 1986 and forthcoming) and Aleš Svoboda (see esp. 1981 and 1983).

The sentences/clauses in the corpus can be classified into four types:

S — a subordinate clause preceding its main clause (or inserted into the main clause),

s — a subordinate clause following its main clause,

m — a main clause formally connected with the preceding clause in a compound sentence,

M — a main clause formally not connected with the preceding sentence/clause, or a simple or complex sentence.

Only sentences/clauses of the same type in English and Czech are compared. The English originals do not provide exactly the same number of each type as the Czech originals, but the differences are not really striking:

JK — Jan Kozák, Mariana Radvaková, *Mariana Radvaková a jiné osudy* (Prague 1977), Mariana Radvaková, *The white stallion*, transl. by Norah Hronková (Prague 1980);

VS — Valja Stýblová, *Skalpel, prosím* (Prague 1987 — 3rd ed.), *Scalpel, please*, transl. by John Newton (Prague 1985);

— NON-FICTION

TPS — Aleš Tichý, Lidmila Pantůčková and T. D. Sparling, *Dějiny anglické literatury od počátků do poloviny sedmnáctého století, Část první, Středověk* (Prague 1982), *A history of English literature from its beginnings to the middle of the 17th century, Part one, The Middle Ages*, transl. by T. D. Sparling (in one volume with the Czech original);

RP — Rudolf Pečman, Deset let Mezinárodního hudebního festivalu v Brně, *Festival Hudba pokroku a míru — Musica, pax, progressus* (Brno 1975), Ten years of the Brno international musical festival, transl. by Jessie Kocmanová (in one volume with the Czech original);

JM — Jan Mukařovský, Individuum a literární vývoj, *Studie z estetiky* (Prague 1971), The individual and literary development, transl. by John Burbank and Peter Steiner, *The word and verbal art* (New Haven and London 1977).

	M	m	S	s	TOTAL
The English originals	678	156	49	317	1 200
The Czech originals	747	139	44	270	1 200
TOTAL	1 425	295	93	587	2 400

(Each of the 2,400 sentences/clauses is examined in two versions, the English one and the Czech one.)

The frequency of the clause types mentioned above seems to depend on the functional style (genre), irrespective of the language of the original:

	M	m	S	s	TOTAL
Fiction (Engl./Czech originals)	732	194	42	232	1 200
Non-fiction (Engl./Czech originals)	693	101	51	355	1 200
TOTAL	1 425	295	93	587	2 400

The two numbers in m (194 : 101) reveal that the frequency of the m-type (a non-initial main clause) is nearly twice as high in fiction as in non-fiction, while columns S and especially s show a considerably higher frequency of subordinate clauses in non-fiction in both the languages examined. This may be due to the fact that fiction quite often merely enumerates actions and joins them together, while non-fiction is more concerned with descriptions and definitions (mostly expressed by attributive s–clauses).

C o o r d i n a t i n g   c o n j u n c t i o n s open English main clauses more frequently than Czech main clauses. Of all the types of coordinating conjunction, the greatest difference can be seen with the adversatives, but this is deceptive, since the English initial *but* often corresponds to the Czech non-initial ("hidden") *však*. Example sentences (1) and (2) illustrate the use of copulative conjunctions in English and Czech.

(1) /Přání plout mu nedopřává klidu,/ před voláním širých vodních plání ustupují všechna potěšení života na souši.
[/..,/ before call of-wide-open water plains recede all pleasures of-life on dry-land.][2]
/The desire to sail ... makes him restless,/ *and* all pleasure in life on dry land pales before the call of the wide-open spaces of the sea. TPS 15/14[3]

(2) *And* what varieties are coming to prevail?
Jaký druh mužů a žen převládne v budoucnosti? CWM 7/10
[What kind of-men and women will-prevail in future?]

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[2] For the benefit of the reader who may not have a ready command of Czech, each Czech example is followed by a literal English translation.

[3] The two numbers indicate the pages where the example sentences/clauses begin in the original and in the translation.

The English versions of (1) and (2) use the conjunction *and*, while there are no conjunctions in the Czech versions.

(1) is a compound sentence with more than one "sphere of the basis" (Firbas 1954). In his article, Firbas shows that while such spheres can be separated by simply a comma in Czech, they must (in the absence of what Firbas calls auxiliary phenomena) be separated by a semicolon, or by a comma and a conjunction in English.

(2) shows *and* at the beginning of an M-clause, taken from non-fiction. While in fiction the Czech copulative conjunction *A* introduces M-clauses (i.e. sentences/initial main clauses) more often than the English *And*, in non-fiction it is the other way round. *And* is a rather informal clause beginning; from this point of view, English non-fictional style does not differ greatly from popular style, while Czech non-fictional style tries to be more formal, more "scholarly". The stylistic polarity between fiction and non-fiction seems to be greater in Czech than in English.

C o n j u n c t s, like conjunctions, occur at the beginning of the English main clause more often than at the beginning of the Czech main clause (73 : 61). The difference is especially obvious with resultive and contrastive conjuncts[4], but to a large extent it is due to the non-initial position of the Czech expressions *tedy* and *však*, mostly corresponding to the English conjuncts *Thus* and *However*, as (3) illustrates.

(3) *Thus* the distribution of the energy has changed.
   Změnilo se *tedy* rozdělení energie. JAC 4/13
   [Changed *refl. pron.* thus distribution of-energy.]

I n t r o d u c t o r y   p a r t i c l e s, occurring only in the Czech part of the corpus, are not frequent there either (see (4) below).

(4) Was I in heaven?
   Copak jsem v nebi? LL 17/14
   [I-wonder am-I in heaven?]

D i s j u n c t s, unlike conjunctions and conjuncts, start main clauses in Czech a little more frequently than they do in English. This is partly due to the correspondence "a Czech content (truth) disjunct — an English modal verb" (cf. Hladký 1983 and (5) here), but mostly due to the "hidden position" of the disjunct in English (see (6) below).

(5) ..., but they *must* have been of a peaceful disposition.
   ..., ale *jistě* to byl mírumilovný lid, ... TTR 18/18
   [..., but certainly it was peaceful people, ...]
(6) *Opravdu* mám studenty, to není žádná výmluva.
   [Really I-have students, that is-not any excuse.]
   I *really* do have students to teach, that's no excuse. VS 20/10

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[4] They are two of the seven major types of conjuncts distinguished by Quirk et al. 1985.

D i s e n g a g e d   s e n t e n c e   e l e m e n t s occur in M-clauses only; they are of approximately the same frequency in English and Czech, and more frequent in fiction than in non-fiction. The Czech version of (7) starts with a projected disengaged sentence element followed by the formal and summarizing subject *všechno (=all)*, while there is no disengaged element in the English version.

(7) **Each stick and cup and picture was nailed immovably in place;** ...
Každá násada, každý hrnek, každý obrázek, všechno bylo napevno přitlučeno hřebíkem na místo, ... LL 11/11
[Each stick, each cup, each picture, everything was immovably hammered with-nail in place, ...][5]

Other types of disengaged sentence element are interjections, particles and vocatives.

S u b o r d i n a t i n g   c o n j u n c t i o n s introduce subordinate clauses of various kinds. The evidently most frequent s-clause both in English and in Czech is the attributive clause; in frequency it is followed by the object clause and the adverbial clause of cause.[6] The most frequent S-clauses are those of time and cause (the former mostly occurring in fiction, the latter in non-fiction). English and Czech prefer s-clauses to S-clauses (i.e. the most frequent position of the subordinate clause is after its main clause — the corpus examined shows a ratio of 86.3 % to 13.7 %).

Example (8) is quite characteristic, using an adverbial s-clause of manner in the Czech version and a predicative s-clause in the English version.

(8) /- a navíc se měl stát festivalem nového typu také tím,/ *že* zahrne nejen koncerty a operní (baletní) představení, ale také ...
[/- and moreover *refl. pron.* it-was to-become festival of-new type also by-it/ that it-will-include not-only concerts and opera (ballet) performances, but also ...]
/... while a further new aspect was/ *that* the Festival was to include ... RP 117/131

In the following survey, the predicative s-clause from (8) is included in the category "Other".

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[5] The indefinite pronoun *všechno*, following the projected disengaged element made up of nouns of different genders, enables the necessary concord between the subject and the verb in Czech.

[6] In interpreting subordinate clauses I keep to the traditional classification used by Šmilauer 1969 and Hais 1975, where the category of attributive clauses comprises both content and relative clauses.

Subordinate clauses (s-clauses + S-clauses)								
	Subject clause	Object clause	Attrib. clause	Adverbial clause of				Other	TOTAL
				place	time	man-ner	cause	
Frequency in the Czech corpus	6.2 %	19.7 %	41.6 %	1.0 %	10.4 %	5.9 %	12.9 %	2.2 %	100 %
Frequency in the English corpus	6.2 %	20.2 %	41.8 %	0.4 %	11.0 %	4.7 %	12.5 %	3.2 %	100 %
The most common conjunction in English	*that*	*that*	rel. pron.	rel. pron. /adv.	*when*	*as*	*if*	*while* (ad-vers.)	

As can be seen from the survey, the frequencies of different kinds of subordinate clause in English and Czech do not differ considerably.[7]

Neither i n t r o d u c t o r y p a r t i c l e s nor d i s e n g a g e d s e n - t e n c e e l e m e n t s occur in the examined subordinate clauses; the numbers of c o n j u n c t s and d i s j u n c t s are very small there.

Having discussed the expressions that are predominantly structural, let us proceed to syntactic sentence elements, dealing with them in the following order: the adverbial of place, time, manner, cause, and origin, object, complement, one-member sentence/clause, predicate, subject and predicate, subject. FSP interpretations of the example sentences will be presented, too. The following FSP functions will be distinguished: theme proper (Thp), diatheme (Thd), transition proper (Trp), transition (Tr), rheme (Rh), and rheme proper (Rhp) — arranged here from the function with the lowest degree of CD to that with the highest degree of CD (communicative dynamism, see esp. Firbas 1986 and forthcoming).[8]

The initial a d v e r b i a l o f p l a c e is nearly twice as frequent in Czech as in English (see TABLE 1). Example sentences (9) and (10) represent those m-clauses in non-fiction where the initial position is occupied by an adverbial of place in Czech, but not in English.

(9) ..., *v Brně* si podávaly ruku významné osobnosti ...
   [..., in Brno *refl.pron.* shook hands outstanding personalities ...]
   ... and *Brno* became the meeting place of many outstanding personalities ...
   RP 117/130
(10) ... for *practically no weapons* were found in their tombs ...
   ..., neboť *v hrobech* se nenašla v podstatě žádná zbraň. TTR 18/18
   [... for in tombs *refl. pron. for the passive* was-not-found in principle any weapon.]

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[7] The results reached by Nebeská 1985 for the Czech language are very similar to the present ones.

[8] For the purposes of this paper, I simplify Svoboda's scale of FSP functions in that I subsume theme-proper oriented themes under theme proper, diatheme oriented themes under diatheme and transition-proper oriented transitions under transition proper.

Each of the Czech versions of (9) and (10) begins with an adverbial of place, while each of the English versions begins with the subject. But whereas the English version of (9) does not include any adverbial of place at all, since the locative notion is conveyed by the subject (cf. Quirk et al. 1972.353; 1985.747; Dušková 1975.201), the English version of (10) puts the adverbial of place *(in their tombs)* in the final clause position. The corpus includes sentences/clauses similar to (9) with various corresponding structures, like:

v něčem probíhá změna — something is changed
[in something is-taking-place change]
na něčem nacházíme — something displays
[on something we-find]
v něčem je — something shows, something reveals.
[in something is]

From the point of view of FSP, the beginning of the English clause in (9) does not differ from that of the Czech clause (they are both diathemes), while (10) begins with a diatheme in Czech and rheme proper in English. The distribution of CD along the actual linear arrangement of the English version of (10) is then different from that of the Czech version, but the sentence elements, due to their semantic characters and the degrees of their context dependence, perform the same FSP functions in English and Czech: the subject (initial in English, final in Czech) is rheme proper in FSP, the predicate is transition proper and a transition (Trp+Tr) and the adverbial of place (final in English, initial in Czech) is diatheme.

T h e   a d v e r b i a l   o f   t i m e starts an English sentence/clause almost as frequently as a Czech one (8.71 % : 10.21 % in my corpus), non--fiction even showing a higher number of initial adverbials of time in English than in Czech (see TABLE 1).

(11) /... conscious/ that *at that moment* I was not in the public eye.
/... vědom,/ že *toho času* mě veřejnost nebere příliš na vědomí. WSM 12/14
[that at-this time me (the-)public does-not-take too-much into consideration.]

Both the English *at the moment* and the Czech *toho času* are diathematic; other adverbials of time occurring initially in English as well as in Czech include: *then — pak, by now — teď*, the relatives *when — kdy* in s-clauses, but also quite long temporal expressions, including subordinate temporal clauses.

T h e   a d v e r b i a l   o f   m a n n e r as an initial sentence element is more frequent in Czech than in English, though adverbials of regard or comparison, as well as interrogative adverbs of manner, may quite often be found at the beginning of an English sentence/clause, too:

(12) *How* does it differ from other periods?
Jak se liší od jiných období? CWM 7/10
[How *refl.pron.* it-differs from other periods?]

TABLE 1. THE BEGINNINGS OF MAIN AND SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

%	IN ENGLISH									
	FICTION				TO-TAL	NON-FICTION				TO-TAL
	S	s	m	M		S	s	m	M	
Conjunct	—	0.4	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.7	5.9	6.2	4.7
Introductory particle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disjunct	—	0.9	—	0.7	0.6	—	—	—	1.3	0.8
Disengaged sent. element	—	—	—	2.3	1.4	—	—	—	0.2	0.1
Adverbial of place	—	6.9	1.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	5.1	—	3.9	3.9
time	—	4.3	12.9	11.6	10.0	—	3.7	8.9	9.7	7.4
manner	—	3.9	3.6	2.0	2.6	2.0	3.9	6.9	5.3	4.9
cause	—	0.9	1.0	2.2	1.7	—	2.8	1.0	4.3	3.4
origin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Object	2.4	6.9	1.0	6.4	5.5	7.8	7.6	—	0.3	2.7
Complement	—	—	—	0.5	0.3	2.0	—	—	0.4	0.3
One-member sent./clause	2.4	—	1.0	4.8	3.2	—	—	—	0.4	0.3
Predicate	7.1	3.0	34.6	3.8	8.7	2.0	2.5	23.8	3.2	4.7
Subject +predicate	—	4.7	2.1	2.5	2.8	—	—	—	—	—
Subject, separate	88.1	68.1	40.2	56.6	57.2	80.3	72.7	53.5	64.8	66.8
%					100.0					100.0
TOTAL Numbers of cases	42	232	194	732	1,200	51	355	101	693	1,200

TOTAL	IN CZECH										TOTAL
	FICTION				TO-TAL	NON-FICTION				TO-TAL	
	S	s	m	M		S	s	m	M		
3.4	—	—	4.1	3.0	2.5	3.9	0.9	5.9	3.6	3.0	2.8
—	—	—	—	0.6	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	0.2
0.7	—	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.1	—	—	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.9
0.8	—	—	—	2.6	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	0.8
3.9	7.1	12.0	6.7	7.4	8.2	9.8	6.7	5.0	7.5	7.2	7.7
8.7	4.8	6.9	14.4	15.5	13.2	—	6.2	7.9	8.1	7.2	10.2
3.8	2.4	6.0	6.2	4.8	5.2	5.9	5.9	10.9	5.9	6.3	5.7
—	—	0.9	1.0	2.7	2.0	—	2.8	1.0	4.9	3.8	2.9
2.5	—	—	0.5	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
4.1	14.3	22.4	5.7	9.0	11.2	9.8	15.5	3.0	7.4	9.5	10.4
0.3	—	—	—	0.3	0.2	—	—	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.5
1.7	2.4	0.9	1.6	4.6	3.3	3.9	0.9	—	0.9	0.9	2.1
6.7	54.7	26.3	42.3	26.4	29.9	47.1	13.2	37.6	17.6	19.2	24.6
1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
62.0	14.3	23.3	17.0	21.9	21.1	19.6	47.9	24.7	42.1	41.4	31.2
100.0					100.0					100.0	100.0
2,400	42	232	194	732	1,200	51	355	101	693	1,200	2,400

In FSP, both the English and the Czech interrogative adverb is interpreted as diatheme + transition proper (Thd+Trp).[9]

T h e   a d v e r b i a l   o f   c a u s e   includes adverbials of reason, consequence, purpose, and concession; its initial position is slightly more frequent in Czech than in English.

(13) /We do not need to know, in order to construct the light bulb,/ *why* these
substances behave differently, ...
/abychom mohli konstruovat žárovku, nepotřebujeme vědět,/ *proč* se tyto
látky chovají odlišně, ... JAC 2/10
[/.../ why *refl.pron.* these substances behave differently, ...]

Both the English and the Czech version of (13) begin with an adverbial of cause, which in FSP operates, rather exceptionally, as rheme proper. This is due to the fact that only the adverbial *why* — *proč* is context-independent, while all the other sentence elements are known from the preceding verbal context, and therefore are "backgrounded", dedynamized (cf. Firbas 1986.44—5). The majority of initial adverbials of cause are diathematic.

T h e   a d v e r b i a l   o f   o r i g i n   can only be found in the Czech version of (14):

(14) ...and *the house* was home.
... a *z domu* byl domov. LL 11/11
[...and from house was home.]

T h e   o b j e c t   occurs initially in 4.12 % of all the English sentences/ clauses of the corpus, and in 10.37 % of all the Czech ones; this means that the Czech initial object is about 2.5 times more frequent than the English one. In comparing fiction and non-fiction, we can observe a more pronounced prevalence of the Czech initial object over the English one in non-fiction (see TABLE 1). This can be accounted for by the fact that in fiction more often than in non-fiction, direct speech occurs; operating as an object in syntax and as rheme proper in FSP, it opens a complex sentence as often in Czech as in English.

(15) ..., and when *they* sent him manuscripts to criticize...
..., a když *mu* poslali k posouzení rukopisy, ... WSM 16/17
[..., and when to-him they-sent to evaluation manuscripts, ...]

Only the Czech version of (15) begins with an object (*mu* coming as the first sentence element after two conjunctions), while the English version begins with the subject; the object *(him)* occupies its usual position after the verb. In FSP, *they* as well as *mu* is interpreted as theme proper.

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[9] For the purposes of this paper, the role of *How* as Question Focus Anticipator (cf. Firbas, e.g., forthcoming, ch. 6) has not been taken into consideration.

T h e   c o m p l e m e n t is a slightly more frequent initial sentence element in Czech than in English. The Czech and the English version of (16) both begin with a complement; the linear modification, not counteracted by other FSP factors, renders the complements diathematic.

(16) *Opojen prostředím,* rozhlíží se Jan Kašpar šťastně kolem sebe;
[Drunk with-surroundings, looks-round *refl.pron.* Jan Kašpar happily round him;]
Drunk with his surroundings, he looked round him happily. FK 14/15

T h e   o n e - m e m b e r   s e n t e n c e / c l a u s e is, on the whole, more frequent in Czech than in English; in M-clauses taken from fiction, however, it is more common in English. (17) illustrates the latter case.

(17) *Je* to mladá žába, /ale umí./
[Is that young girl, /.../]
A young chick, /but she knows what she's doing./ VS 20/12

Only the English version of (17) is a one-member (non-verbal) clause; its FSP function is rheme proper + transition proper (Rhp+Trp). The initial predicate in the Czech version operates as transition + transition proper (Tr+Trp).

T h e   p r e d i c a t e   (o r   a   p a r t   o f   i t) is about 3.5 times more frequent as an initial sentence element in Czech than in English (see 17 and 18).

(18) A *odejel* daleko, ...
[And he-went far, ...]
And *he'd gone* a long way, ... JK 10/92

In TABLE 3, the predicate *odejel* is included in the group Predicate + + subject, while *Je* from (17) is a case of Predicate, other. This is so because in the Czech version of (18) the subject is not implemented by a separate word or phrase, but merely by a morphemic subject signal -*l,* anaphorically referring to a person mentioned in the previous context (cf. Uhlířová 1987.125), while (17) contains an independent subject *to.* Communicatively, the Czech verb *odejel* operates as transition + transition proper + theme proper (Tr+Trp+Thp).

When does the predicate occur at the beginning of an English sentence/clause? It does so in questions (see 4, namely the predicate *Was*), in imperative sentences, and in m-clauses where the subject is known from the preceding clause and can be ellipted (like *I* in 19, where '*ll* is not repeated either).

(19) /I'll look at my book when I get home/ and *ring* you up. WSM 12/13
/Až přijdu domů, podívám se do diáře/ a *zavolám* ti.
[/.../ and I-'ll-ring-up you.]

The FSP function of the English predicate *ring* is (el. Thp+Trp+)Tr, of the Czech predicate + subject *zavolám* it is Rhp+Trp+Thp.

T h e   s u b j e c t   a n d   p r e d i c a t e   only occurs in English fiction. In (18), the FSP function of the subject and predicate *he'd gone* is also combined: theme proper + transition proper + transition (Thp+Trp+Tr).

T h e   (s e p a r a t e)   s u b j e c t   is the most frequent initial sentence element both in English and in Czech, though the percentage in English is twice as high as in Czech (62.04 % : 31.25 %). The Czech initial subject outnumbers all the other sentence elements in non-fiction only, while in fiction it is outnumbered by the predicate. A typical English initial subject in fiction operates as theme proper (cf. *they* in 15); that in non--fiction as a diatheme (see also Golková 1987) (cf. *all pleasure in life on dry land* in 1), but sometimes as a (non-emotive) rheme proper, especially when it performs what Firbas (e.g. 1986.48) terms "the dynamic semantic function of expressing a phenomenon appearing/existing on the scene" (exemplified by *wars* in 20).

(20) When *wars* happen, ...
       Když *vypukne* válka, ... CWM 3/7
       [When breaks-out war, ...]

TABLE 1, summarizing the research into the beginnings of subordinate and main clauses (S, s, m, M), shows that while the prevalence of the English initial subject is not challenged by any other sentence element, the quite frequent Czech initial object, adverbial of time, and especially predicate make the repertoire of the Czech clause beginning more varied than is the case in English.

TABLES 2, 3 and 4 provide surveys of the FSP functions of the English and Czech clause beginnings under examination irrespective of the clause types and functional styles.

The comparison of English and Czech can be done in two ways; while TABLES 2 and 3 give numbers of separate thematic and rhematic elements only, TABLE 4 adds to them thematic and rhematic elements that are combined with elements of transitional character.

The first type of comparison shows that whereas theme proper accounts for 22.17 % of all initial FSP functions in English, it only accounts for 1.75 % in Czech (see TABLES 2 and 3); the second type of comparison raises the share of Czech initial themes proper up to 13.76 %, and therefore changes the relative shares of all the other communicative functions (see TABLE 4).[10]

The two methods of comparison, however, are concordant in showing that there are the following correspondences and differences between the FSP functions of the sentence/clause beginning in English and Czech:

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[10] The combined functions are counted more than once here — hence the numbers 2,660 and 3,386 instead of 2,400.

TABLE 2. ENGLISH SENTENCE/CLAUSE BEGINNINGS — FSP FUNCTIONS

	Thp	Thd	Trp/(el. Thp+) Trp	(el. Thp +Trp+) Tr	Thp+Trp/ Thd+Trp	Thp+Trp +Tr/Tr+ Trp+Thp	Thd+Trp +Tr	(el. Thp+) Trp+Tr/Rhp +Trp+Tr	Tr+Trp/ (el. Thp+) Tr+Trp	(el. Thp+) Trp+Rhp/Rhp+Trp (+el. Thp+Tr)	Rhp+Trp/ (el. Thp+) Rhp+Trp	Trp+Thp +Rhp/Rhp+ Trp+Thp	Rh	Rhp/(el. Thp+ Trp+) Rhp	Number	%
Conjunct			81/—												81	3.37
Disjunct			16/—												16	0.67
Disengaged sent. element		2	16/—												18	0.75
Adverbial of place		91			—/1								1	—/1	94	3.92
time		207			—/1									1/—	209	8.71
manner		75			—/9						1/—		4	—/1	90	3.75
cause		54			—/3						2/—			2/—	61	2.54
Object		52			—/5					—/2			2	38/—	99	4.12
Complement		6									1/—			1/—	8	0.33
One-member sent./clause											41/—				41	1.71
Predicate		7	12/4	14	—/10	—/12		11/—	7/71	1/—	2/4	1/2		—/3	161	6.71
Subject+predicate					10/4	17/—	1	—/1							33	1.38
Subject, separate	532	876			—/6								15	60/—	1 489	62.04
Number	532	1 370	125/4	14	10/39	17/12	1	11/1	7/71	1/2	47/4	1/2	22	102/5	2 400	
TOTAL %			5.38	0.58	2.04	1.21	0.04	0.50	3.25	0.12	2.13	0.12	0.92	4.46		
%	22.17	57.08					15.37							5.38		100.00

TABLE 3. CZECH SENTENCE/CLAUSE BEGINNINGS — FSP FUNCTIONS

	Thp	Thd	Trp	Thd+Trp	Trp+Thp	Trp+Thp +Tr/Tr+ Trp+Thp	Trp+Tr/ Tr+Trp	Tr	Tr (+el. Trp+ Thp)/(el. Trp +Thp+) Tr	Trp+Thp +Rhp/Rhp+ Trp+Thp	Rhp+Trp	Rh	Rhp/(el. Trp +Thp+) Rhp	TOTAL Number	%
Conjunct			66											66	2.75
Introductory particle			5											5	0.21
Disjunct			20										1/—	21	0.88
Disengaged sent. element		7	12											19	0.79
Adverbial of place	3	180											—/1	184	7.67
time		245												245	10.21
manner		100		8							1	20	7/2	138	5.75
cause		61		4							2		2/—	69	2.87
origin		1												1	0.04
Object	37	164		10								2	36/—	249	10.37
Complement		12												12	0.50
One-member sent./clause											51			51	2.13
Predicate+subject					33	35/312				4/35				419	17.46
Predicate, other	1	27	36	7			6/79	1	5/4		2		—/3	171	7.12
Subject, separate	1	729		6								1	13/—	750	31.25
Number	42	1 526	139	35	33	35/312	6/79	1	5/4	4/35	56	23	59/6	2 400	
TOTAL %			5.79	1.46	1.38	14.46	3.54	0.04	0.38	1.62	2.33	0.96	2.71		
	1.75	63.58	31.00									3.67			100.00

TABLE 4. ENGLISH AND CZECH SENTENCE/CLAUSE BEGINNINGS —
FSP FUNCTIONS, SEPARATE OR COMBINED

	ENGLISH — Number		CZECH — Number		ENGLISH — %		CZECH — %	
Theme proper (Thp)	574	1 984	466	2 027	21.58	74.59	13.76	59.86
Diatheme (Thd)	1 410		1 561		53.01		46.10	
Transition proper (Trp)	355	489	734	1 176	13.34	18.38	21.68	34.73
Transition (Tr)	134		442		5.04		13.05	
Rheme (Rh)	22	187	23	183	0.83	7.03	0.68	5.41
Rheme proper (Rhp)	165		160		6.20		4.73	
TOTAL	2 660		3 386		100.00		100.00	

the most frequent clause beginning both in English and in Czech is a thematic one; out of the two basic kinds of theme, diatheme prevails over theme proper both in English and in Czech, but the prevalence is more obvious in Czech;

a transitional element begins the Czech clause approximately twice as often as the English one;

a rhematic element begins the English clause more frequently than the Czech one, but neither of the two languages uses rheme or rheme proper as a habitual clause beginning.

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ANGLICKÝ A ČESKÝ ZAČÁTEK VĚTY

Cílem výzkumu bylo charakterizovat funkci anglického a českého větného začátku z hlediska syntaktického a z hlediska aktuálního členění větného (funkční perspektivy větné). Na základě rozsáhlého materiálu bylo zjištěno, že nejčastějším větným začátkem v angličtině i češtině je samostatný podmět, v angličtině však nad ostatními větnými začátky převažuje mnohem výrazněji (62 % : 31 %); repertoár větných začátků je v češtině pestřejší než v angličtině. Nejčastější funkcí větného začátku z hlediska AČ (FPV) je v obou jazycích diatéma; tranzitním prvkem začíná česká věta častěji než věta anglická a rématickým prvkem začíná častěji naopak věta anglická.