

Terminology in and around Diminutives

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- Diminutives in Czech Terminology and their counterparts in German and English
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Issues

- What do the counterparts of Czech quasi-diminutives look like? Are there also diminutive forms in English and German?
- Is there any correlation between the morphological language type and the type of coining terms?

What is a term?

- lexical unit
- typical for the particular technical language, expertise, study field, profession etc.
- stable, precise (not ambiguous)
- Coinage: typical formations of other (common) lexical units
 - multi-word or compound
 - derivation
 - metaphorical transposition
 - borrowing
 - clipping, abbreviation

What is a diminutive?

- *balík, balíček; chlebík, chlebiček; pumprlík, pumprlíček*
- *pack, packet; little bread; goblin*
- *kis csomag, kenyérke*

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- *house x housie x small house x cottage*
- *(po)poskočit*
- ~~*jump a little bit*~~
- *scamper, hop, make a leap, jump*

Diminutive: Definition

- Form x Meaning
- Meaning:
 - something small / smaller than a prototype; endearment, irony
- Form:
 - synthetic (*doggie*)
 - analytic (*little/small dog*)
 - analytic-synthetic (*little doggie*)
 - inherent (*puppy*)

Questionnaire, corpus analysis

- 240 Czech native speakers
- 170 German native speakers (mainly from Austria, Switzerland)
- Corpus *InterCorp v.4 (cs-de(-en))* onwards (12 million German words)

=> Conclusion:

1. Diminutive form
2. Diminutive meaning

If both => („real“) Diminutive

Diminutive forms without dim. meanings

- *bullet, cigarette, particle...* (originally diminutives)
- *Brötchen, Fräulein, Hörnchen/Kipferl, Kiesel, Märchen, Scherflein*
- *částice, králík, kulka, můstek, schodek...*
- *andulka, besídka, houska, polobotka*

System of Czech diminutives

- quite complex (see handout)
 - specific (*-ínek, íček, -inečka, -átečko, -oučko...*)
 - aspecific (*-ek, -ík, -ko, -ečko...*)
- nouns
- other parts of speech (transposition to nouns)

Gathering data

- All diminutive forms in Corpus *InterCorp v7*
- Collocations, counterparts
 1. „**Real**“ diminutives: potentially evaluative meaning (*botička*)
 2. „**Quasi**“ diminutives: no evaluative meaning (*botička*)
 3. „**Non-diminutives**“: homonymous ending (*žejdlík, jídelníček, antuka, základka, nabíječka, písíčko...*)

„Quasi/Pseudo“ diminutives

- around 600 different forms:

andělíček [angel^{DIM}], *andulka* [„Ann“^{DIM}], *berlička* [crutch^{DIM}],

brambůrek [potatoe^{DIM}], ... *kahánek* [oil lamp^{DIM}] ... *mejdličko* [soap^{DIM}] ...

ořezávátko [sharpener^{DIM}] ... *schodek* [step^{DIM}], ... *žlutásek* [yellow thing^{DIM}]

Only terms (in quite different semantic fields):

- biology 32
- zoology 42
- medicine 35
- fashion 23
- food 32
- industry (various products) 120

(Examples see handout)

Searching for counterparts

- *Treq* on korpus.cz
- *Linguee.com*
- Dictionaries
- *Wikipedia*
- several homepages (e.g. dental chairs)

Counterparts

English

- Metaphors
- Borrowings
- Word-formation
 - Attribute phrases
 - Compounds
 - Diminutives

German

- Word-formation
 - Compounds
 - Diminutives
 - Attribute Phrases
- Borrowings
- Metaphors

Metaphors

chleba

bread

Brot

chlebíček

sandwich

(beleges) Brötchen, Sandwich

*Jako by za těch několik **chlebíčků** a víno měla povinnost mě bavit.*

*As if in return for those few **sandwiches** and the wine she had a duty to entertain me.*

*Als wäre sie verpflichtet, mich zum Dank für den Wein und die paar **Brötchen** zu unterhalten. (Klíma: Milostné léto / A Summer Affair)*

Metaphors

ruka

hand

Hand

ručička

needle

Zeiger

***Ručička** na číselníku vystřelila na padesát pět.*

*The **needle** of the dial had shot up to fifty-five.*

*Der **Zeiger** der Zahlenscheibe schnellte auf fünfundfünfzig hoch.*

(Orwell: 1984)

Metaphors

koš

basket

Korb

košíček (cake)

cupcake

Körbchen

košíček (bra)

cup

Körbchen

mlýn

mill

Mühle

mlýnek

grinder

Kaffee-/Käsemühle

Borrowings

• <i>bomba</i>	<i>bomb</i>	<i>Bombe</i>
• <i>bombička</i>	<i>Cartridge</i>	<i>Kartusche, Patrone</i>
• <i>pusa</i>	<i>mouth, kiss</i>	<i>Mund, Kuss</i>
• <i>pusinka</i>	<i>meringue</i>	<i>Baiser, Busserl (A)</i>
• <i>meč</i>	<i>sword</i>	<i>Schwert</i>
• <i>gladiola</i>	<i>gladiol-us/a</i>	<i>Gladiole</i>

Intergration

- Czech
 - Translations & integration suffixes *fialka, cévka, limetka*
- English
 - No changes (except pronunciation) *violet, catheter, lime*
- German
 - Translations & „Anpassung“ (adjustment) *Veilchen, Katheter, Limette*

„Translations“ (Calques)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| • <i>meč</i> | <i>sword</i> | <i>Schwert</i> |
| • <i>mečík (gladiolus)</i> | <i>sword lily</i> | <i>Schwertblume</i> |
| • <i>pantofel</i> | <i>slipper</i> | <i>Pantoffel</i> |
| • <i>pantoflíček (cypripedium)</i> | <i>lady's slipper orchid</i> | <i>Frauenschuh</i> |
| • <i>sláma</i> | <i>straw</i> | <i>Stroh</i> |
| • <i>slámka (brčko)</i> | <i>straw</i> | <i>Strohalm</i> |

„Translations“ (Calques or same motivation)

• <i>trubka</i>	<i>pipe, tube</i>	<i>Rohr</i>
• <i>trubička</i>	<i>rolled wafel</i>	<i>Waffelröllchen</i>
• <i>stonožka</i>	<i>centipede</i>	<i>Tausendfüßler</i>
• <i>destička</i>	<i>brake disc</i>	<i>Bremsscheibe</i>
• <i>krv<u>in</u>ka</i>	<i>corpus<u>cl</u>e</i>	<i>Blutkörper<u>ch</u>en</i>
• <i>korunka</i>	<i>tooth crown</i>	<i>Zahnkrone</i>
• <i>plotýnka</i>	<i>(spine) disc</i>	<i>Bandscheibe</i>

Compounds

- *kabela*

bag

Tasche

- *kabelka*

handbag

Handtasche

- *zahrada*

garden

Garten

- *zahrádka*

beer garden

*Biergarten, Gastgarten,
Schanigarten (A)*

Diminutives

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| • <i>ubrus</i> | <i>table cloth</i> | <i>Tischtuch</i> |
| • <i>ubrousek</i> | <i>nap<u>kin</u></i> | <i>Serviette</i> |
| • <i>kalhoty</i> | <i>pants, trousers</i> | <i>Hose</i> |
| • <i>kalhotky</i> | <i>und<u>ies</u></i> | <i>Höschen</i> |
| • <i>kapsa (*taška)</i> | <i>pie</i> | <i>Tasche</i> |
| • <i>taštička</i> | <i>dumpl<u>ing</u></i> | <i>Tascher<u>l</u>, Keilchen, (Ravioli)</i> |

Different Motivation

• <i>ledňáček</i>	<i>kingfisher</i>	<i>Eisvogel</i>
• <i>kohoutek</i>	<i>trigger/tap</i>	<i>Hahn</i>
• <i>kopeček</i>	<i>scoop</i>	<i>Kugel</i>
• <i>košíček</i>	<i>cup</i>	<i>Körbchen</i>
• <i>rakvička</i>	<i>casket, sweet</i>	<i>Liebesknochen</i>
• <i>tabulka (čoko)</i>	<i>bar</i>	<i>Tafel, Täfelchen</i>
• <i>matička</i>	<i>nut</i>	<i>Mutter</i>
• <i>zahrádka (auto)</i>	<i>luggage/roof rack</i>	<i>Dachträger</i>

Structures (summing up)

- Czech terminology
 - Word-formation (derivation – even of old borrowings) & metaphors
- English terminology
 - Metaphors & borrowings, word-formation
- German terminology
 - Word-formation (compounding) & metaphors, borrowings

Specification in the opposite direction

Diminutive form is more common, both words are terms.

• kvas	ferment	Gärung
• kvásek	sour dough	Sauerteig
• čistidlo	polish	Reinigungsmittel
• čistítko	cleaner	Reiniger
• napínák	shoe-tree	Holzbügel
• napínáček	pin	Reißnagel
• plivadlo	spit sink	Speichelschale (Spuckbecken?)
• plivátko	spittoon	Spuckschale
• razidlo	seal	Seiegelstempel
• razítko	stamp	Stempel
• sluchadlo	earplug	Hörgerät
• sluchátko	headphone	Kopfhörer

Back-formation „Desuffixation“

Diminutive form is more common, base is a term

- *dalamánek* [roll, bagel] → *dalamán* ≈ *bagel*
- *loupáček* [croissant] → *loupák* ≈ *croissant*
- *feferonka* [pepper] → *feferona* ≈ *pepper*
- *čížek* [finch] → *číž* ≈ *finch*
- *sýček* [little owl] → *sýc* ≈ *little owl*

Wide range of deverbatives

- (*ohryzat* [gnaw] → *ohryzek* [core] → *ohryz* ≈ *bark browsing*)
- *příčesat* [do/add hair] → *příčesek* [hairpiece] → *příčes* [„power“ piece]

Formal words

- *lebka* [skull, head] → *leb* ≈ *skull*
- *vánek* [breeze, wind] → *van* ≈ *draught, breeze*

Conclusion

- Czech uses diminutive suffixes to form terminology
 - unspecific suffixes
- Diminutives in German terminology are very rare
 - specific diminutive suffixes
- Diminutives in English terminology „invisible“
 - in borrowings only
- Counterparts of „back-formed“ Czech words: formal English

Issues

- What do the counterparts of Czech quasi-diminutives look like? Are there also diminutive forms in English and German?
 - In English no, in German yes
- Is there any correlation between the morphological language type and the type of coining terms?
 - Yes, but in English more metaphors than conversions.
 - In German: more metaphors and borrowings than expected.

Thank you very much!