

Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Palackého

Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

Countability of the Noun Experience

(A Corpus Based Research)

(Bakalářská práce)

Countability of the Noun Experience (A Corpus Based Research)
(Bakalářská práce)

Autor: **Kristýna Sláčíková**

Studijní obor: Angličtina se zaměřením na aplikovanou ekonomii

Vedoucí práce: **Mgr. Michaela Martinková, Ph.D**

Počet stran: 53

Olomouc 2014

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla úplný seznam citované a použité literatury.

V Olomouci dne

.....

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mgr. Martinková, Ph.D. for her time, patience, help and encouragement throughout the process of writing this thesis.

ABSTRACT

In my bachelor thesis I focus on the lexeme *experience* with regard to its countability and the related meaning changes. I discuss countability as a semantic-grammatical category in English and the degree of its grammaticalization in Czech. I explore the noun *experience* using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) where the main aim is to find the most frequent adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *experience* when used as count and non-count. Further, with the use of the parallel corpus InterCorp, I investigate how the noun *experience* is usually translated into Czech with regard to its countability.

Keywords: number, countability, polysemy, corpus, adjectival pre-modifiers

ANOTACE

Bakalářská práce je zaměřena na podstatné jméno *experience* s ohledem na počitatelnost a s ní související změny ve významu slova. Popisuje počitatelnost jako sémanticko-gramatickou kategorii v anglickém jazyce a stupeň její gramatikalizace v českém jazyce. S užitím Korpusu současné americké angličtiny podrobněji zkoumá podstatné jméno *experience* a adjektiva, která se nejčastěji vyskytují s tímto podstatným jménem jak v počitatelném tak nepočitatelném užití. Dále se pomocí paralelního korpusu InterCorp práce zabývá českými překlady podstatného jména *experience* vzhledem k počitatelnosti.

Klíčová slova: jmenné číslo, počitatelnost, polysemie, korpus, adjektivní pre-modifikátory

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	7
1 Theoretical Part	9
1.1 Number and Countability in English.....	9
1.2 Countability in the Czech Language	12
1.3 Nouns with the Dual Class Membership.....	14
1.4 The Noun Experience in Dictionaries	16
1.5 Count and Non-count Uses of a Noun: A Case of Polysemy	21
1.6 Semantic Subclassification of Adjectives	21
2 Methodology and Data Analysis	25
2.1 Searching in the COCA.....	25
2.1.1 Count Uses of the Noun Experience	26
2.1.2 Non-count Uses of the Noun Experience.....	28
2.1.3 Uses of the Noun Experience with the Definite Article.....	32
2.1.4 Uses of the Noun Experience in the Plural Form.....	34
2.2 Searching in the InterCorp	36
2.2.1 Count Uses of the Noun Experience in the InterCorp.....	38
2.2.2 Non-count Uses of the Noun Experience in the InterCorp	42
CONCLUSION	45
RESUMÉ	47
REFERENCES	49
LIST OF FIGURES	52
LIST OF TABLES	53

INTRODUCTION

Countability is both a semantic and grammatical category in English. Semantically, “count nouns present something as being manifested in discrete, bounded units that in principle can be counted. Mass (non-count) nouns present their referent as an unbounded mass, an undifferentiated ‘stuff’ (Cruse 2011, 273). In my bachelor thesis I am going to focus on the lexeme *experience* with regard to its countability and the related meaning changes.

According to dictionaries, *experience* as a non-count noun means “knowledge or skill that you gain from doing a job or activity”. *Experience* as a count noun is defined as “something that happens to you or something you do, especially when this has an effect on what you feel or think.” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 2011)

In the first part of my thesis, I am going to talk about countability as a grammatical category. I am going to present with examples formal criteria necessary for classifying nouns as count and non-count, namely the usage of determiners, quantifiers, and the plural form. (Cruse 2011, 272)

I will then focus on nouns with “dual class membership” (Quirk et al., 247). This is sometimes also referred to as cases of “count/non-count polysemy” in Huddleston and Pullum, that is, “many nouns can be used with either a count or a non-count interpretation. We regard this as a case of polysemy (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 334). I will be interested to see the amount of meaning change accompanying the re-categorization of the noun as count and non-count. Using various dictionaries, namely *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)*, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE)*, *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (Macmillan)*, *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (CALD)*, *Collins English Dictionary* and *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* I will compare the dictionary entries on the noun *experience* in greater detail.

The practical part of my thesis will consist of two parts. First, I will investigate the usage of the noun *experience* in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Using the Brigham Young University (BYU) interface, I am going to search for adjectives that frequently appear in the pre-modification of the count and non-count

uses of the noun *experience*. In the analytical part, I will compare the frequencies of adjectives from various semantic groups to see what semantic group of adjectives is more typical for each use of the noun *experience*. In the second part I will use the parallel multilingual corpus InterCorp to investigate how the count and non-count uses of the lexeme *experience* are translated into Czech.

1 Theoretical Part

1.1 Number and Countability in English

As Huddleston and Pullum say, “number is the name of the system contrasting singular and plural. Plural nouns are morphologically marked with an *-(e)s* ending (*dogs*) while singular nouns are unmarked, identical with the lexical base (*dog*). First, however, the distinction between count and non-count nouns needs to be examined, since it interacts in important ways with the number system.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 334).

Countability, as another grammatical category in the English language, is important to determine if a noun can take on a plural form, whether or not a determiner will be used and if so, which one. It also determines the word meaning.

As stated earlier, semantically, “count nouns present something as being manifested in discrete, bounded units that in principle can be counted. Mass (non-count) nouns present their referent as an unbounded mass, an undifferentiated ‘stuff’ (Cruse 2011, 273).”

The formal differences between count and non-count nouns are summarized in Table 1:

	COUNT NOUNS	NON-COUNT NOUNS
occur in the singular without a determiner	NO	YES
occur normally in the plural	YES	odd in the plural or require reinterpretation
quantifiable by	<i>a few, many, and numerals</i>	<i>a little, much</i>

Table 1 Criteria for classifying count and non-count nouns (Cruse 2011, 272)

I am now going to exemplify the above stated criteria for classifying count and non-count nouns with concrete sentences:

Sentence (1) marked with an asterisk is grammatically incorrect because as one of the above stated criteria reads, count nouns can never occur in the singular form without a determiner. Example (2) is grammatically correct without a determiner because the noun *experience* is used as non-count and means “the things that have happened to you that influence the way you think and behave.” (OALD 2014)

- 1) **I saw yellow car.* [C]
- 2) *The book is based on personal experience.* [U] (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2014)

Sentence (3) is perfectly correct as the count noun *bird* occurs in plural with an -s ending and can be quantified by *many*. However, the noun *homework* appears only in the non-count sense in the OALD and therefore the s-ending cannot be added (4).

- 3) *Many birds were singing in the background.* [C]
- 4) **My homeworks were difficult.* [U]

Since the word *bottle* in example (5) is used in the plural form with an -s ending, quantification by *many* is correctly used here. Sentence (6) marked with an asterisk is grammatically incorrect because wine in the non-count use cannot stand with *many* as this quantifier is used with count uses of nouns only.

- 5) *He drank many bottles.* [C]
- 6) **I didn't drink many wine.* [U]

This is in accordance with the division of Dušková et al., who distinguish count and non-count nouns based on three criteria - number, quantification and determination:

	COUNT NOUNS		NON-COUNT NOUNS	
1. NUMBER	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
	<i>picture</i>	<i>pictures</i>	<i>furniture</i>	0
	<i>mistake</i>	<i>mistakes</i>	<i>violence</i>	0
2. QUANTIFICATION				
numerals	<i>two pictures</i>		0	0
<i>several</i>	<i>several mistakes</i>		0	0
<i>many, a few x much, a little</i>	<i>many pictures</i>		<i>much violence</i>	
	<i>a few mistakes</i>		<i>little furniture</i>	
<i>every, each, all</i>	<i>every picture</i>		<i>all furniture</i>	
	<i>each mistake</i>		<i>all(any) violence</i>	
	<i>all pictures/mistakes</i>			

3. INDEFINITE DETERMINATION		
generic	<i>A mistake is no crime.</i>	<i>Violence does not solve problems.</i>
specific	<i>I made a mistake.</i>	<i>That would do violence to his principles.</i>

Table 2 Criteria for classifying count and non-count nouns (Dušková et al. 1988, 51-52)

In contrast with Cruse, Dušková et al. say that count and non-count nouns differ also in the usage of *all* and *every*, *each*. *All* is used with both count and non-count nouns. However, *all* is usually used with count nouns only in the plural form (7). *All* used with count nouns in the singular form occur in the meaning of *entire* (8). (Dušková et al. 1988, 50-51).

7) *All children should be taught to swim.* (LDCE2011)

8) *The boys played video games all day.* (LDCE2011)

Every and *each* are used only with count nouns (9). Non-count nouns are used with *all* or *any* instead (10). (Dušková et al. 1988, 50-51)

9) *Each/every member of the team is given a particular job to do.* (LDCE 2011)

10) *They want to end all/any violence against children.* (LDCE 2011)

Unlike Cruse, Dušková et al. also distinguish determination in generic and in specific reference. While count nouns in both specific and generic reference are used with an indefinite article, non-count nouns are used in both cases with zero article as can be observed in Table 2 (Dušková et al. 1988, 51).

In (11) “the reference is specific, since we have in mind particular specimens of the class ‘tiger’. But if we say (12), the reference is generic, since we are thinking of the class ‘tiger’ without specific reference to particular tigers” (Quirk 1997, 265)

11) *A lion and two tigers are sleeping in the cage.* (Quirk 1997, 265)

12) *Tigers are dangerous animals.* (Quirk 1997, 265)

Last but not least, Quirk et al. (Quirk 1997, 287) also remind the fact that the indefinite article occurs with count nouns but only rarely with non-count nouns, for instance, when they “refer to a quality or other abstraction which is attributed to a person”:

13) **She played oboe with a sensitivity.* (Quirk 1997, 287)

14) *She played oboe with sensitivity.* (Quirk 1997, 287)

Quirk et al., however, admit that the indefinite article with non-count nouns may occur if the noun is pre-modified or post-modified.

That is to say, unlike in (13) and (14), in sentences (15) and (16), the noun is modified in both cases and thus, the indefinite article is more acceptable than a zero article. (Quirk et al. 1997, 287):

15) *She played the oboe with a charming sensitivity.* (Quirk et al. 1997, 287)

16) *She played the oboe with a sensitivity that delighted the critics.* (Quirk et al. 1997, 287)

As Quirk et al. are suggesting, “*a* would have to be omitted if the adjective were omitted (14).” (Quirk 1997, 287)

However, Poldauf says that this kind of re-categorization appears rarely (sometimes even only in poetry). Such re-categorization implies that features exist in various forms, various kinds and with different intensity. (Poldauf 1951, 46)

1.2 Countability in the Czech Language

According to Dušková, the category of countability as well as the category of number is a semantic-grammatical category. The grade of its grammaticalization is, however, different in different languages and so is the count and non-count concept of extra-linguistic phenomena, which, too, differs in different languages. (Dušková 1988, 49)

The category of countability is not grammaticalized in the Czech language but it is manifested in the category of number. The countability of nouns in Czech is expressed only in the possibility of formation of the plural form, which is a sign of countability also in English (Dušková 1988, 50):

17) *okurka (a cucumber)/ dvě okurky (two cucumbers)* (Dušková 1988, 50)

18) *jeden význam (one meaning)/ různé významy (different meanings)* (Dušková 1988, 50)

19) *důležitost (importance)/*důležitosti (*importances)* (Dušková 1988, 50)

The semantics of the non-count nouns makes it also clear that they cannot be associated with numerals and expressions like, for example, *a few* (Dušková 1988, 50):

20) *two vegetables / some vegetables* can only mean "two kinds of vegetables, several kinds of vegetables". (Dušková 1988, 50)

Poldauf claims that, in the course of its development, the Czech as well as English language changed the nature of the category of number. Originally, there were the following contradictions:

Indefinite amount		Definite amount	
Non-count	Count	One	Two
<i>water</i>	<i>boys</i>	<i>one boy</i>	<i>two boys</i>

Table 3 Development of the category of number and countability (Poldauf 1951, 26)

This has been being reflected in Czech until now: numerals from five and above are associated with the genitive case of the count ("*pět chlapců*") as well as giving a rate/amount is associated with the non-count ("*spousta vody*") (Poldauf 1951, 26).

The fact that there is a higher degree of grammaticalization of the category of countability in English than there is in Czech arises primarily from another difference in the behavior of count and non-count nouns, that is, indefinite determination, which in English has grammatical means. (Dušková 1988, 51)

In Czech, where the difference between the count and the non-count is not reflected as much when meeting other grammatical categories nor otherwise, we do not often realize how much changes in countability accompany meaning changes (Poldauf 1951, 42):

21) *Byl vydán zákon. (A law has been issued.)/ Zavládl zákon a pořádek. (law and order)* (Poldauf 1951, 42)

Meaning change can be observed also in the researched noun *experience*. The noun *experience* when in the non-count sense means *zkušenost* in Czech (22) and when used as count it is translated as *zážitek* (23). (Poldauf 1951, 43). That is in agreement with

Hais and Hodek who use the same translations in their work *Velký anglicko-český slovník*. (Hais a Hodek 1984, 741)

22) *Experience is the mother of wisdom. (Zkušenost matka moudrosti.)* (Poldauf 1951, 43)

23) *This was a grand experience for him. (To byl pro něho velký zážitek.)* (Poldauf 1951, 43)

1.3 Nouns with the Dual Class Membership

“The division of nouns according to countability into count nouns and non-count nouns is basic in English. Yet the language makes it possible to look upon some objects from the point of view of both count and non-count.” (Quirk 1997, 247) This is also in agreement with Dušková et al. who say that a large number of nouns in English is used as count as well as non-count. Sometimes the primary use is count and other times the primary use can be non-count. It is often hard to determine which use is primary (Dušková et al. 1988, 53).

“In some cases, the existence of paired count and non-count senses is entirely predictable, so that it is not necessary for a dictionary to list both: one can be inferred from the other. Such common cases where the sense is predictable enough not to be listed are secondary count interpretations of primarily non-count nouns where the noun denotes a “serving of ...” or a “kind/variety” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 336). This is exemplified in sentences (24) and (25).

24) *She offered me another beer.* (C) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 336)

25) *These are two of my favorite cheeses.* (C) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 336)

However, sometimes the amount of meaning change accompanying the re-categorization of the noun as count and non-count gets bigger, which is in agreement with Huddleston and Pullum who say that the secondary sense in some cases is not regular and predictable and therefore, needs to be listed in dictionaries (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 337).

The following pairs of nouns offer such unpredictable uses of given nouns (LDCE 2011):

The noun *toast* in sentence (26) is used as count in the sense of “drinking to someone to thank them or wish them luck” as opposed to sentence (27) where the same noun is used as non-count and means “bread”.

26) *I'd like to propose a toast to the bride and groom.* (LDCE 2011).

27) *I had a piece of toast for breakfast.* (LDCE 2011).

The word *pepper* when used as non-count (28) means “spice” while in the count sense (29) it is interpreted as “vegetable”.

28) *This meal could use some salt and pepper.*

29) *I prefer bell peppers.* (LDCE 2011).

The noun *paper* in sentence (30) means a newspaper whereas the same word as used in sentence (31) represents the material.

30) *Have you seen today's paper?* (LDCE 2011).

31) *Write it down on a piece of paper.*

According to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) the noun *glass* as used in (32) is referred to as “a transparent solid substance.” However, the count usage of this word (33) indicates “a container of liquids” (LDCE 2011).

32) *I found a piece of broken glass.* (LDCE 2011).

33) *Nigel raised a glass in a toast to his son.* (LDCE 2011).

The noun *memory* in (34) means “storage space”. *Memory* as a count noun (35) is something you remember.

34) *Personal computers now have much increased memory capacity.* (LDOCE 2011)

35) *He has lots of happy memories of his stay in Japan.* (LDCE 2011).

The non-count sense of the noun *speech* in (36) is interpreted as an ability to speak. The count sense of the same word (37) is rather a formal talk given to people.

36) *Only humans are capable of speech.* (LDCE 2011).

37) *Each child had to give a short speech to the rest of the class.* (LDCE 2011).

Experience used as count in (38) means “a skill that you gain from doing a job.” On the other hand, *experience* in the non-count sense (39) basically means “knowledge of life.” This particular noun, however, will be further discussed and analyzed in the following chapters (LDCE 2011).

38) *You've got a lot of experience of lecturing.* (LDCE 2011).

39) *From personal experience, she knew and understood the problems of alcohol addiction.* (LDCE 2011).

“English nouns, however, do have countability preferences; some enter countable environments more readily than others. And not all nouns occur in all kinds of countability environments.” (Allan 1980, 541) This tendency can be seen with concrete as well as with abstract nouns. However, Huddleston and Pullum claim that “a large number of nouns denoting abstract concepts often tend to be non-count in their primary sense.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 337)

1.4 The Noun Experience in Dictionaries

In this section I am going to focus on general information about the noun *experience* that can be found in dictionaries. The dictionaries I consulted are *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (Macmillan)*, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)*, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE)*, *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (CALD)*, *Collins English Dictionary* and *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*. Each of the above named dictionaries lists a number of uses/senses of the noun *experience*. I went through all of them to find similarities as well as differences to provide a comparison.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE)

- 1) [U] knowledge or skill that you gain from doing a job or activity, or the process of doing this
You've got a lot of experience of lecturing.
- 2) [U] knowledge that you gain about life and the world by being in different situations and meeting different people, or the process of gaining this
Being a parent isn't easy, as I know from experience.

- 3) [C] something that happens to you or something you do, especially when this has an effect on what you feel or think.

Parachuting is quite an experience.

- 4) events or knowledge shared by the members of a particular society or group of people:

No writer expresses the black experience with such passion as Toni Morrison.

- 5) *British English* a system in which a student can work for a company in order to learn about a job, or the period during which a student does this.

Ella is about to do work experience with a clothing manufacturer.

LDOCE implies that the last two senses of the noun *experience* are too specific and used only by a certain group of people: In (4) the noun *experience* is used either about the black, female or Russians or possibly any another group of people. In (5) the usage of *experience* as *work experience* is affected by the culture of a particular nation as it is said to be used mainly in Great Britain.

OALD, however, does not list *work experience* separately but only makes a link in the first entry referring to this collocation:

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)

- 1) [U] the knowledge and skill that you have gained through doing something for a period of time; the process of gaining this

Do you have any previous experience of this type of work?

➤ see also *work experience*

- 2) [U] the things that have happened to you that influence the way you think and behave

The book is based on personal experience.

- 3) [C] an event or activity that affects you in some way

Living in Africa was very different from home and quite an experience (= unusual for us).

- 4) the... experience [singular] events or knowledge shared by all the members of a particular group in society, that influences the way they think and behave

musical forms like jazz that emerged out of the Black American experience

The fourth entry for the word *experience* in OALD matches the fourth mentioned entry in LDOCE, that is, *experience* in (4) is used as events or knowledge shared by all the members of a particular group in society and is used as a separate sense. OALD is, however, the only one of these two dictionaries that provides additional information regarding this particular usage of the word, namely the fact that the noun *experience* is used in this sense only in the singular form.

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners

- 1) [U] knowledge and skill that is gained through time spent doing a job or activity
Do you have any previous experience with children?
- 2) [U] the knowledge that you get from life and from being in a lot of different situations
Experience told me not to believe him.
- 3) [C] something that happens to you, or a situation that you are involved in
I had a bad experience in the last place I worked.

Macmillan dictionary includes only three uses of the noun *experience*, which correspond with the first three uses in OALD as well as in LDOCE.

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (CALD)

- [U] (the process of getting) knowledge or skill from doing, seeing, or feeling things
Do you have any experience of working with kids? (= Have you ever worked with them?)
I don't think she has the experience for the job (= enough knowledge and skill for it).
- [C] something that happens to you that affects how you feel
I had a rather unpleasant experience at the dentist's.
I did meet him once and it was an experience I shall never forget.

The least detailed dictionary of all dictionaries discussed in this chapter is CALD which provides simple distinction based on the countability of the noun *experience* rather than its sense.

The next dictionary to be mentioned here is *Collins English Dictionary*, which is very detailed within its semantics. However, since it does not provide any information on the countability of entries for the noun *experience* nor almost any example sentences, it is not very helpful regarding the usage of the word.

Collins English Dictionary

- British English

- 1) direct personal participation or observation; actual knowledge or contact ⇒ *experience of prison life*
- 2) a particular incident, feeling, etc, that a person has undergone ⇒ *an experience to remember*
- 3) accumulated knowledge, esp of practical matters ⇒ *a man of experience*
- 4)
 - a) the totality of characteristics, both past and present, that make up the particular quality of a person, place, or people
 - b) the impact made on an individual by the culture of a people, nation, etc ⇒ *the American experience*
- 5) (*philosophy*)
 - a) the content of a perception regarded as independent of whether the apparent object actually exists *Compare sense datum*
 - b) the faculty by which a person acquires knowledge of contingent facts about the world, as contrasted with reason
 - c) the totality of a person's perceptions, feelings, and memories

- American English

- 1) the act of living through an event or events; personal involvement in or observation of events as they occur
- 2) anything observed or lived through ⇒ *an experience he'll never forget*
- 3)
 - a) all that has happened in one's life to date ⇒ *not within his experience*
 - b) everything done or undergone by a group, people in general, etc.

- 4) the effect on a person of anything or everything that has happened to that person; individual reaction to events, feelings, etc.
- 5)
 - a) activity that includes training, observation of practice, and personal participation
 - b) the period of such activity
 - c) knowledge, skill, or practice resulting from this

There are two reasons I decided to introduce this dictionary. *Collins English Dictionary*, as the only one, offers a choice to pick either American or British English when looking up a word. Both types of English mention more or less the same meanings of the noun only using different definitions for them. Another interesting thing that I observed only in this dictionary is the entries that came up for the noun *experience* in the field of philosophy in British English.

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

- 1)
 - a) direct observation of or participation in events as a basis of knowledge
 - b) the fact or state of having been affected by or gained knowledge through direct observation or participation
- 2)
 - a) practical knowledge, skill, or practice derived from direct observation of or participation in events or in a particular activity
 - b) the length of such participation (*to have 10 years' experience in the job*)
- 3)
 - a) the conscious events that make up an individual life
 - b) the events that make up the conscious past of a community or nation or humankind generally
- 4) something personally encountered, undergone, or lived through
- 5) the act or process of directly perceiving events or reality

The last dictionary I consulted is *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*. When going through this dictionary I did not find any information that I would not encounter in the previous ones. *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* is closest to *Collins English*

Dictionary with its definitions as well as its structure. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* does not include any information on countability either.

1.5 Count and Non-count Uses of a Noun: A Case of Polysemy

As mentioned above, nouns with dual class membership are referred to as cases of count/non-count polysemy. “In a broad sense, polysemy is understood as variation in the construal of a word on different occasions of use. It is based on isolating different parts of the total meaning potential of a word in different circumstances. The process is viewed as the creation of a sense boundary delimiting an autonomous unit of sense.” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 109)

Cruse differentiates three kinds of autonomy: attentional, relational and compositional. The most relevant for my work is the last type: “Compositional autonomy refers to the fact that in a compositional process, for instance the modification of a noun by an adjective, one of the participating elements will engage with, or take as its scope, only a portion of the meaning of the other. That portion will be said to display compositional autonomy, and it will be assumed that a boundary has been drawn between it and the rest of the meaning. The workings of compositional autonomy are very obvious, for instance, in *a steep bank*. The adjective *steep* in effect ignores completely the meaning “financial institution” – it is as if it did not exist. Likewise, in *a high-street bank*, the meaning “edge of river” is cut off and plays no part.” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 114) To apply this to the noun *experience* means to say that a single sense of the noun could potentially have different adjectival modifiers.

In this thesis, I will follow CALD and differentiate only two uses of the noun *experience* (count and non-count). The fact that these two senses are autonomous could again be potentially reflected in their adjectival modifiers; this is what I will try to verify in the first part of the analysis. Before I do so, I will discuss how English adjectives are divided into semantic groups.

1.6 Semantic Subclassification of Adjectives

Quirk et al. describe “three semantic scales applicable to adjectives: stative/dynamic, gradable/nongradable, and inherent/noninherent” (Quirk 1997, 434):

- **Stative/dynamic adjectives**

“Adjectives are characteristically stative (*tall, short, big, small, beautiful, pretty*). Many adjectives, however, can be seen as dynamic. Dynamic adjectives seem to denote qualities that are thought to be subject to control by the possessor and hence can be restricted temporally (*abusive, adorable, ambitious, awkward, brave, calm, careful, careless, cheerful, clever, friendly, funny, ...*)” (Quirk 1997, 434).

- **Gradable/nongradable adjectives**

“All dynamic and most stative adjectives are gradable. Some stative adjectives are not, principally denominal adjectives (*atomic, scientist*) and adjectives denoting provenance (*British, American*)” (Quirk 1997, 435).

- **Inherent/noninherent**

“Most adjectives are inherent, that is to say, they characterize the referent of the noun directly. Modification of a noun by means of a noninherent adjective can be seen as extension of the basic sense of the noun.” (Quirk 1997, 435):

40) *a firm friend* (A friend whose friendship is firm.) (Quirk 1997, 435)

41) *a firm handshake* (A handshake that is firm.) (Quirk 1997, 435)

42) *a wooden cross* (A wooden object) (Quirk 1997, 435)

43) *a wooden actor* (An actor whose acting is “not showing enough expression, emotion, or movement”). (LDCE 2011).

However, since these criteria overlap, no adjective can be considered to belong into only one of these semantic classes. “All dynamic and most stative adjectives (eg: *tall, old*) are gradable. Gradable adjectives are either inherent, as in *a black coat*, or noninherent, as in *a new friend*. Dynamic adjectives are generally inherent.” (Quirk 1997, 435-436) Quirk et al. provide a table illustrating all possible interactions of the above mentioned semantic classes of adjectives:

	Gradable	Inherent	Stative
<i>That's a big boat; She is a brave woman.</i>	YES	YES	YES
<i>She is being very brave.</i>	YES	YES	NO

<i>He is a firm friend; He is a wooden actor.</i>	YES	NO	YES
<i>This actor is being wooden tonight.</i>	YES	NO	NO
<i>She is a medical student.</i>	NO	NO	YES

Table 4 Adjectives illustrating possible interactions of the semantic classes (Quirk 1997, 436)

Huddleston and Pullum distinguish eight semantic types of attributive-only adjectives:

a) Degree and quantifying attributives

“One group has to do with the degree to which the property expressed in the head nominal applies in a given case (*a complete fool, a definite advantage, a perfect stranger*). Quantifying adjectives may express the kind of quantification that applies to frequency (*the odd lizard, an occasional truck, the usual place*), or various other kinds of quantification (*the entire class, full agreement, further instalment*)” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 555-556).

b) Temporal and locational attributives

“This next group has to do with the relative time at which the description expresses in the head applies, or with location in space (*his current girlfriend, his former wife, future progress, a new friend, my old school*).” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 556).

c) Associative attributives

In this case, “the property expressed by the adjective does not apply literally to the denotation of the head nominal, but rather to some entity associated with it.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 556):

44) *clerical duties* (They are not duties which are clerical but rather “duties associated with being a clerk.”) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 556)

45) *criminal law* (“It is not itself criminal but is the branch of the law that concerns crime.”) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 556)

46) *foreign affairs* (“They aren’t themselves foreign, but concern relations with foreign countries.”) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 556)

d) Process-oriented attributives

“The property expressed by the adjective applies to an associated process. It describes the degree or manner of this process. (*a big eater, a fast worker, a hard worker, a heavy smoker, a sound sleeper*).” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 557)

e) Modal attributives

“They express a modal qualification to the applicability of the nominal.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 557):

47) *He’s a potential customer* (“It does not entail *He’s a customer*.”) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 557)

48) *A self-styled prince* (This clause does not necessarily mean it is a prince.)

f) Particularising attributives

“These adjectives serve to pick out a specific member or group of members of the set denoted by the head (*a certain house, a particular area, the main objection*).” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 558)

g) Expressive attributives

These are adjectives that “express the speaker’s ill-will, irritation, anger, agitation (*the bloody tax inspector, a fucking investigation*)” or also positive feelings like love and sympathy (*my dear mother, her poor father*). (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 558)

h) Transferred attributives

“This is another case where the adjective does not apply literally to the head nominal.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 558):

49) *a discreet cigarette* (“It wasn’t the cigarette that was discreet, but the way it was smoked.”) (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 558)

2 Methodology and Data Analysis

2.1 Searching in the COCA

In this part of the thesis I am going to investigate the usage of the noun *experience* in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) using the Brigham Young University (BYU) interface created by Mark Davies. The aim is to find out not only what are the most common adjectives that occur with both the count and the non-count use of the noun *experience* but also see what adjectives are used only with one sense of the noun.

“COCA is the largest freely-available corpus of English, and the only large and balanced corpus of American English. It contains more than 450 million words of text and is equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. It includes 20 million words each year from 1990-2012 and the corpus is also updated regularly.” (Davies 2008)

To be able to search in the corpus I had to make a query using part-of-speech (POS) tagging. COCA uses CLAWS 7 tag set. The tag *j** is used for adjectives and tag *n** is used for nouns. These tags have to be written in square brackets and each tag needs to be separated by a space. The number of "hits" to see in the results set was adjusted to 1000. In the research I consulted only “those strings that occurred ten times or more.” (Davies 2008)

2.1.1 Count Uses of the Noun Experience

To find adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* in the count sense, I used the following query:

a|an [j*] experience -[n*]¹

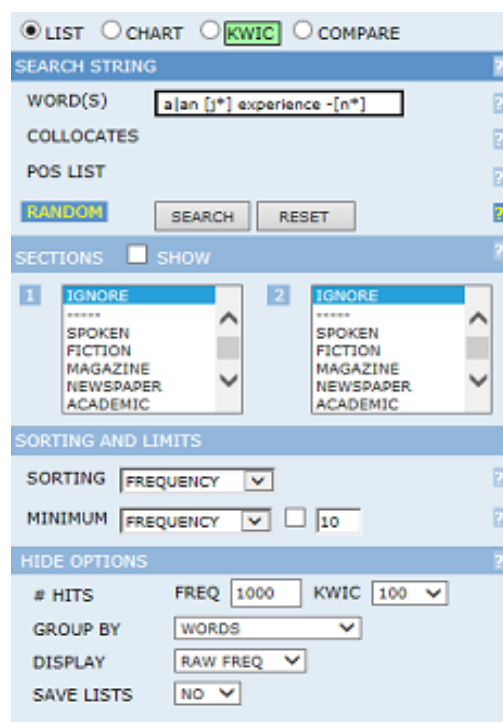


Figure 1 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *experience* in the count use

Table 5 lists adjectives usually pre-modifying the count use of the noun *experience*. To create the table from a number of entries that I went through in order from the most frequent to the least frequent adjectives pre-modifying the noun, I had to write down the adjectives as they showed up when searching in the corpus and add the number of occurrences for each of them. Since many times the same adjective showed up as more than just one entry, I had to sum up all the occurrences of the particular adjective. For example, the adjective *wonderful* appeared as three entries (*a wonderful experience* with the number of 96 occurrences, *a wonderful experience for* with the number of 18 occurrences and *a wonderful experience to* with the number of 12 occurrences). It was not until I summed up the numbers of all these three entries could I write the total number of that particular adjective into the table, which was 126 in the case of the adjective *wonderful*.

¹ -[n*] was used to exclude tokens where the noun *experience* is used in premodification of other nouns

The total number of tokens of the count noun *experience* pre-modified by an adjective was **3943**

COCA	Adjective collocates	Number of occurrences
1.	great	187
2.	new	139
3.	wonderful	126
4.	positive	114
5.	good	102
6.	similar	80
7.	bad	72
8.	religious	61
9.	amazing	52
10.	unique	51
11.	once-in-a-lifetime	50
12.	different	49
13.	out-of-body	43
14.	pleasant	40
15.	near-death	36
16.	interesting	29
17.	life changing	27
18.	incredible	25
19.	shared	22
20.	traumatic	22
21.	emotional	20
22.	spiritual	20
23.	unforgettable	19
24.	extraordinary	17
25.	humbling	15
26.	sexual	12
27.	terrifying	12
28.	enjoyable	12
29.	valuable	11
30.	eye-opening	11
31.	rewarding	11
32.	successful	11
33.	fun	11
34.	common	11
35.	memorable	11
36.	painful	11
37.	direct	10
38.	sobering	10
39.	special	10
40.	remarkable	10

Table 5 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the count use of the noun *experience*

Great is the most frequent adjective pre-modifying the count use of the noun *experience*. When looking at Table 5, it can be observed that most of the adjectives in

pre-modification of the count use of the noun are related to opinions, feelings and quality, which equals to Huddleston and Pullum's expressive attributives.:

50) It was *a great experience* for all of us, especially for our three children.

[COCA:2012:MAG:MotherEarth]

51) It was the beginning of *a wonderful experience* which lasted 13 years.

[COCA:2008:MAG:TotalHealth]

52) Riley was fair and respectful, and it was *a positive experience*.

[COCA:2002:NEWS:USAToday]

53) Shopping should be graceful and *a good experience*. [COCA:2000:MAG:Bazaar]

54) I've never had *a bad experience* with a man. [COCA:1994:SPOK:Ind_Geraldo]

However, there are also exceptions such as, for example, the adjective *new* (55), (56), which Huddleston and Pullum consider to be a temporal and locational attributive according to their semantic subclassification.:

55) The online discussions with colleagues were *a new experience* for me, and I enjoyed them. [COCA:2007:ACAD:THEJournal]

56) For many of the students, the factory was *a new experience*. .

[COCA:2007:ACAD:MechanicalEng]

2.1.2 Non-count Uses of the Noun Experience

The following query was created to obtain a list of adjectives usually pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience*:

-a|an [j*] experience -[n*]²

Figure 2 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *experience* in the non-count use.

Table 6 shows the most frequent adjective collocates occurring with the non-count use of the noun *experience*. Creating this table I had to take into consideration sentences where the noun *experience* is preceded by the definite article (57), (58) or possessive pronouns (59) since it is impossible to find out from the context whether the noun *experience* is count or non-count.

57) This suggests that the pattern observed here is driven by more than *the personal experience* of conflict by respondents. [COCA:2010:ACAD:AmJPubHealth]

58) He's come up with something that goes to the heart of *the human experience*. [COCA:2008:SPOK:NPR_TalkNation]

59) I'm going to have to use *my own personal experience*. [COCA:2003:SPOK:NPR_TalkNation]

This is in accordance with Huddleston and Pullum who say that “some determiners combine with both count and non-count singular nouns (*the house, this piece, my father*), similarly also with *no* (60), *that*, other genitives, *some* and *any*, *which* and *what*.” Nouns with such determiners cannot be classified as either count or non-count.

² -a|an was used to exclude tokens where the noun *experience* is used in the count sense

(Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 338-339). For this reason, they were excluded from further analysis.

60) Martin had *no prior experience* with horses when he married into a cattle-ranching family. [COCA:2010:MAG:MotherJones]

Another similar problem that I encountered was with the adverb *very*. When looking into the example sentences containing this adverb I found that it is, in most cases, preceded by an indefinite article (61). Since non-count nouns cannot be preceded by an indefinite article such examples had to be excluded from the table and were counted among the count uses of the noun.

61) Well, I think it's *a very different experience*. [COCA:1998:SPOK:NPR_Saturday]

COCA	Adjective collocates	Number of non-count occurrences	Number of occurrences preceded with <i>the, no</i> or a possessive pronoun
1.	personal	239	85
2.	human	220	103
3.	extensive	77	0
4.	religious	56	16
5.	political	52	2
6.	past	40	0
7.	long	38	0
8.	worst	13	13
9.	previous	25	12
10.	sexual	12	0
11.	common human	12	0
12.	everyday	11	20
13.	aesthetic	11	18
14.	bitter	11	12
15.	long	10	0
16.	direct	10	0
17.	rewarding	10	0
18.	emotional	10	0
19.	american	0	150
20.	black	0	56
21.	whole	0	128
22.	historical	0	27
23.	common	0	27
24.	own personal	0	25

25.	subjective	0	24
26.	shared	0	23
27.	actual	0	23
28.	recent	0	22
29.	immigrant	0	45
30.	unique	0	19
31.	african-american	0	28
32.	educational	0	32
33.	best	0	16
34.	entire	0	14
35.	collective	0	14
36.	social	0	13
37.	overall	0	13
38.	prior	0	23
39.	painful	0	11
40.	immediate	0	11
41.	inner	0	10
42.	musical	0	10
43.	practical	0	10
44.	spiritual	0	10
45.	total	0	10

Table 6 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience*

The most frequent adjective pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience* is *personal*:

62) Well, I do have *personal experience* with private equity. [COCA:2012:SPOK: Fox_Sunday]

Generally it can be stated that most of the adjectives pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun are related to historical perspective, i.e. origin, time, and individual knowledge. According to Huddleston and Pullum most of these adjectives could be classified as associative attributives:

63) He also continually collected books that would help him understand *human experience*, and now some 12,000 remain. [COCA:2012:MAG:NatlParks]

64) It is in the heart that genuine *religious experience* must take place. [COCA:2012:ACAD:TheologStud]

65) Alternatively, respondents may differ in amount of *sexual experience*.
[COCA:1991:ACAD:SexResearch]

2.1.3 Uses of the Noun Experience with the Definite Article

As I have explained in the previous subchapter (2.1.2), when searching for the most frequent adjectives pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience*, I came across many cases when the noun was preceded by the definite article. Since this type of article belongs to determiners that cannot be classified as either count or non-count, such cases were excluded from the research and were examined using another searching query in this subchapter.

I was interested to see if adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* with the definite article really do correspond with what have been observed in the dictionaries earlier, that is, *the...experience* was listed separately as sense 4 in LDOCE and OALD in the meaning of “events or knowledge shared by all the members of a particular group in society” when speaking, for instance, about the Americans (66), about the black (67) or possibly any another group of people. (LDOCE 2011)

66) *Musical forms like jazz that emerged out of the Black American experience.*
(LDOCE 2011)

67) *No writer expresses the black experience with such passion as Toni Morisson.*
(LDOCE 2011)

To confirm if the noun *experience* with the definite article is usually pre-modified by adjectives such as *American* and *black* as dictionaries say I downloaded data from the COCA using the following query:

the [j*] experience -[n*]

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following sections:

- SEARCH STRING:** Includes radio buttons for LIST, CHART, KWIC (selected), and COMPARE. Below is a text input field containing the query "the [j*] experience -[n*]".
- COLLOCATES, POS LIST, RANDOM, SEARCH, RESET:** A row of buttons and labels.
- SECTIONS:** A "SHOW" button and two dropdown menus labeled "1 IGNORE" and "2 IGNORE". Each dropdown lists categories: SPOKEN, FICTION, MAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, and ACADEMIC.
- SORTING AND LIMITS:** Includes a "SORTING" dropdown set to "FREQUENCY" and a "MINIMUM" dropdown set to "FREQUENCY" with a value of "10".
- HIDE OPTIONS:** Includes "# HITS" with "FREQ" set to "1000" and "KWIC" set to "100", "GROUP BY" set to "WORDS", "DISPLAY" set to "RAW FREQ", and "SAVE LISTS" set to "NO".

Figure 3 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *experience* with the definite article

I, then, created Table 7 listing the most frequent adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* with the definite article *the*:

COCA	Adjective collocate	Number of occurrence
1.	American	150
2.	whole	116
3.	human	103
4.	black	93
5.	immigrant	81
6.	educational	32
7.	african-american	28
8.	historiacl	27
9.	common	27
10.	personal	26
11.	subjective	24
12.	actual	23
13.	shared	23
14.	recent	22
15.	everyday	20
16.	unique	19
17.	aesthetic	18
18.	best	16

19.	religious	16
20.	entire	14

Table 7 Adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* with the definite article

According to Table 7 the most frequent adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* preceded by the definite article are, indeed, in accordance with the mentioned dictionaries, meaning the top adjectival pre-modifiers are *American* (68), *black* (69) or other adjectives representing members of another group in society (70) or (71).

68) This action closes a chapter in *the American experience*.

[COCA:2005:SPOK:NPR_ATC]

69) The award honors the best student-written plays about *the black experience*.

[COCA:2006:NEWS:AssocPress]

70) Both are legitimate and both capture important aspects of *the human experience* of embodiment. [COCA:2001:ACAD:TheologStud]

71) She is presently working on a new collection dealing with *the immigrant experience*.

[COCA:1993:FIC:KansasQ]

2.1.4 Uses of the Noun Experience in the Plural Form

Table 8 lists the most frequent adjectives that occur with the noun *experience* in the plural form. It shows that *personal* is the most frequent adjective as well as in the case of pre-modification of the noun *experience* in the non-count sense. Most of the other adjectives are also shared with the non-count use of the noun and could be classified as associative attributives rather than expressive ones relating to opinions and feelings:

72) Teacher attitudes are an important gage of *educational experiences*.

[COCA:2001:ACAD:EnvironEd]

73) Recall your hottest *sexual experiences*. [COCA:2000:MAG:MensHealth]

74) There is a difference between musical activities and *musical experiences*.

[COCA:2010:ACAD:MusicEduc]

The conclusion that the adjectives pre-modifying the plural form of the noun *experience* (*experiences*) are similar to those pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience* confirms what cognitive linguists claim. That is, “almost any count noun can

be construed as designating a homogeneous, unbounded mass and thereby come to function as a mass noun grammatically. Pluralization is one of the grammatical behaviors that identify count nouns, but its result is a type of mass noun. Plurals act like other mass nouns in many respects; e.g. they occur without determiners as full noun phrases (She bought [fruit/peaches]), and they take certain quantifiers that cannot combine with count nouns (I ran into a lot of [trouble/problems/*problem]).” (Langacker 1990, 73)

COCA	Adjective collocates	Number of occurrences
1.	personal	332
2.	past	197
3.	educational	179
4.	new	156
5.	sexual	149
6.	similar	138
7.	different	127
8.	positive	85
9.	cultural	73
10.	musical	73
11.	negative	59
12.	bad	58
13.	near-death	57
14.	previous	53
15.	traumatic	47
16.	shared	46
17.	spiritual	37
18.	religious	30
19.	prior	30
20.	human	29
21.	mystical	29
22.	common	29
23.	emotional	28
24.	other	26
25.	everyday	25

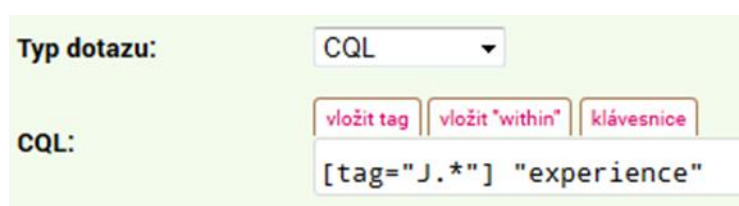
Table 8 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the plural form of the noun *experience*

2.2 Searching in the InterCorp

In the second part of my analysis I am interested to see if the noun *experience* is always translated as was previously stated in 1.2, that is, the noun *experience* means *zkušenost* in the non-count sense and *zážitek* if it used as count. For this research I used the parallel corpus InterCorp. (Poldauf 43)

InterCorp is a parallel translation corpus, created as part of the Czech National Corpus at Charles University, Faculty of Arts, supported by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic within the major infrastructure projects for Science, Research and Innovation. The corpus is used as a data source for theoretical studies, lexicography, student works, teaching, especially teaching of foreign languages, computer applications, translators and the public. The core of the corpus are automatically aligned, mostly fiction texts. The corpus contains also automatically processed texts, the collections. Every foreign-language text has its Czech version in the corpus. The total extent of the corpus is 138,779,000 words in foreign-language texts aligned in the core and 728,508,000 words in foreign-language texts aligned in the collections. (InterCorp 2014)

First, a subcorpus of the American original texts of fiction issued after 1920 was created (3,965,944 text positions). I then downloaded the examples where the noun *experience* is pre-modified by an adjective using the CQL query in Figure 4 and sorted them manually.



The image shows a search interface with a light green background. At the top left, it says "Typ dotazu:" followed by a dropdown menu set to "CQL". Below this, there are three buttons: "vložit tag", "vložit 'within'", and "klávesnice". Underneath the buttons is a text input field containing the CQL query: "[tag="J.*"] "experience".

Figure 4 The query used to find the noun *experience* pre-modified by an adjective in the InterCorp

The 83 tokens of the noun *experience* pre-modified by an adjectival modifier were sorted into the count and the non-count uses. I was interested to see whether the count noun *experience* is translated as *zážitek* and the non-count noun as *zkušenost*.

When creating Table 9 and Table 10 I had to exclude 35 positions of the noun *experience* as it was pre-modified either by the definite article or a possessive pronoun and it was not clear whether the noun is used as count or non-count:

75) “He found the ideal forum in writing works of fiction, reducing *his shapeless experience* of this murky netherworld into straightforward narrative lines: stories of mythic planes, dread and eldritch deeds committed by plotters of evil intent, contested by men from the world of light and knowledge, not unlike himself, who ventured knowingly and for the most part recklessly into the darkness.” (MF_LS)

76) “Although she was a year younger than Ruth , Hannah had always seemed older, not only because Hannah had had three abortions before Ruth managed to lose her virginity but also because *Hannah 's greater sexual experience* lent her an air of maturity and sophistication.” (JI_WOY)

77) “I don't know which agency, he could not remember, but anyway he says he's not using us anymore, that *the whole experience* turned him sour.” (JA_C)

In one sentence the word *experience* was used as a verb (78) and therefore, it had to be excluded from the research as well:

78) “Americans *no longer experience* vacations.” (JG_C)

After having excluded the above mentioned occurrences of the word *experience* I was left with 21 positions of the noun *experience* in the count use (Table 9) and 26 positions of the noun in the non-count use (Table 10).

Adjectival pre-modifier	The Czech translation
public	veřejná záležitost
heady	omamná zkušenost
religious (2x)	extáze náboženského rázu/religiózní zážitek
new (3x)	nový zážitek (2x)/nová zkušenost
educational	poučný zážitek
interesting	zajímavá zkušenost
fascinating	fantastický úspěch
bad	špatná zkušenost
psychic	nadpřirozené prožitky
direct	přímý prožitek
terrifying	hrůzný zážitek
exciting	vzrušující zážitek
unsettling	nepříjemný zážitek

dire	hrůzná zkušenost
traumatic	traumatizující zážitek
physical	fyzická zkušenost
life-long	únava ze života
straightforward	bezprostřední kontakt

Table 9 The Czech translations of the noun *experience* in the count use³

Adjectival pre-modifier	The Czech translation
little (2x)	malé zkušenosti
more (3x)	více zkušeností (2x)/větší zkušenost
direct (2x)	bezprostřední setkání/..., že by se osobně setkal
personal (4x)	vlastní zkušenost (2x)/osobní zkušenost/osobní zážitek
clinical	příjemné, vyrovnané chování
past	minulá zkušenost
long	dlouhá zkušenost
extensive	značná zkušenost
much (2x)	mnoho zkušenosti
high-diving	zkušenosti s hloubkovým potápěním
human	..., že by člověk vůbec mohl zažít
authentic	x
life	osobní zkušenost
firsthand (2x)	zprostředkované setkání/zkušenost z první ruky
specific	patříčné zkušenosti
real-life (2x)	osobní zkušenost/skutečné životní zážitky

Table 10 The Czech translations of the noun *experience* in the non-count use⁴

2.2.1 Count Uses of the Noun *Experience* in the *InterCorp*

When looking at Table 9 I found out that the noun *experience* in the count use is in many cases translated into Czech as *zkušenost* and not as *zážitek* as Poldauf describes in his work (Poldauf 1951, 43).

However, it does not mean that the usage of the noun *zkušenost* is incorrect since *zkušenost* is the result of an experience in the meaning of *zážitek*, *prožitek*. In other words, *experience* in the non-count sense is often the result of an *experience* in the

³ Red color marks cases of the count use of the noun *experience* that were translated as *zkušenost*

⁴ Red color marks cases of the non-count use of the noun *experience* that were translated as *zážitek*

count sense, they go hand in hand together and thus, the authors of the Czech translations often exchange the noun *zážitek* for the noun *zkušenost*.

Jirasek confirms this by saying that In Czech the difference between the noun *prožitek* and *zážitek* is not perceived. It is rather considered to be an auxiliary tool in relation to the noun *zkušenost*. These nuances, however, cannot be captured In English. The term *experience* is used for the noun *prožitek* as well as for *zkušenost* – it is probably because of the perception of the noun *zkušenost* as the memory of preserved *experience* (*prožitku*). (Jirasek 2004)

That could be demonstrated also on sentence (79). Verbs such as *prožít* and *zažít* are derived from the noun *prožitek*, *zážitek* and therefore, should not be used with the noun *zkušenost*. The noun *zkušenost* could be used with verbs like *získat* or *mít*. Authors, however, use the verb *zažít*, *prožít* also in the context with the noun *zkušenost*:

79) Lebox of course sensed that Doyle was withholding key parts of his story, but was mindful enough of their friendship, and sufficiently convinced that Doyle *had been through an authentically dire experience*, to allow him to part company at this point. Lebox pochopitelně cítil, že si Doyle nechává klíčové části svého vyprávění pro sebe. Bral však natolik ohled na jejich přátelství, a také byl natolik pevně přesvědčen, že Doyle *prožil nějakou skutečně hrůznou zkušenost*, že mu pro tuto chvíli dovolil se rozloučit. (MF_LS)

When focusing solely on the noun *experience* it is obvious that the Czech nouns *zážitek* and *zkušenost* are often interchangeable due to their shared portion of the meaning as was explained in Jirasek.

I was interested to see when the interchange is more likely to occur. Therefore, I investigated the adjectival pre-modifiers.

I looked at adjectives pre-modifying the Czech nouns *zážitek* and *zkušenost* (Table 11). I went thought the first twenty random adjectives to see if there is any difference between the semantic type of these adjectives and the ones pre-modifying the noun in English.

zkušenost	Zážitek
životní	náboženský
dlouhá	Silný

dlouhodobá	znepokojivý
vlastní	traumatický
osobní	Mystický
nová	Nádherný
další	romantický
hluboká	Kulturní
takováhle	Estetický
celistvá	Dokonalý
historická	nezapomenutelný
klinická	Kouzelný
mnoholetá	neobvyklý
zaběhlá	Otřesný
vojenská	Nejhorší
podobná	mimořádný
úžasná	Velký
špatná	Děsivý
neocenitelná	Ohromný

Table 11 Adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *zážitek* and *zkušenost* in Czech

According to the data, however, adjectival pre-modifiers of the Czech nouns *zážitek* and *zkušenost* seem to belong to the same semantic type of adjectives as the ones pre-modifying the noun *experience* in both uses in English. That is, *zkušenost* usually appears with adjectives related to historical perspective, i.e. origin, time, and individual knowledge. The noun *zážitek* is usually pre-modified by adjectives describing opinions and emotions.

It appears that it is the concrete adjectives rather than the whole semantic class of adjectives which tend to cause the count use of the noun *experience* to be translated as *zkušenost* in some cases. According to Table 9, among such adjectives belong: *dire* (79), *heady* (80), *physical* (81), *bad* (82), *interesting* (83) and *new* (84).

80) It was *a heady experience*, being practically worshiped by a man so classy he could probably have any woman.

Byla to *omamná zkušenost*, že ji doslova uctívá takový chlap, který může mít pravděpodobně každou, kterou si zamane. (SB_HD)

81) After the pickup at the Kundera lecture, it was completely *a physical experience* with Dominique, and she had never had that before.

Z Kunderovy přednášky odešla s Dominiquem a byla to pro ni čistě *fyzická zkušenost*, nic podobného předtím nezažila. (PR_HS)

82) Oh, he had *a bad experience* with another service; they told him the girl was gorgeous and she was missing teeth or something.

Ále, má *špatnou zkušenost* s jinou agenturou. Napovídali mu, že dívka je fantastická, ale jí chyběl zub nebo co. (JA_C)

83) There was a shrug in his tone. “I kept it as a keepsake of *an interesting experience*.”

“Nechávám si ho jako vzpomínku na ... *zajímavou zkušenost*,” prohodil ledabyly. (JL_LS)

84) It was *a new experience* for him, this efficient use of words, and the more he did it the more he liked it.

Tohle hospodárné užívání slov znamenalo pro něho *novou zkušenost*, a čím víc se o ně snažil, tím víc se mu to líbilo. (JG_C)

However, after reading the whole sentences containing these adjectives, I have come to the conclusion that the context in which the noun *experience* occurs is more crucial than the given adjectival pre-modifier. If one experiences something which they can learn from and/or build on in the future then it is perceived as *zkušenost*. However, the noun is translated as *zážitek* if one experiences something, either good or bad, but they do not necessarily learn from that nor apply that in other life situations.

In some other cases, the count use of the noun *experience* was translated using also other words than *zkušenost* and *zážitek*, for instance *úspěch* (85), *záležitost* (86) or the author avoided using any appropriate equivalent and paraphrased instead (87).

85) But this one was shaping up to be even more of *a fascinating experience*.

Ovšem můj nový seminář hned od začátku sliboval ještě *fantastičtější úspěch*. (JA_C)

86) In contrast, the publication of a book was *an alarmingly public experience*.

Oproti tomu vydání knihy je znepokojivě *veřejná záležitost*. (JI_WOY)

87) No, and I seriously doubt I 'm the kind of man who could ever HAVE a religious experience.

Ne, a upřímně pochybuji, že jsem druh člověka, který by vůbec někdy mohl *extázi náboženského rázu* prožít. (DB_AD)

2.2.2 Non-count Uses of the Noun *Experience* in the InterCorp

When analyzing the translations of the noun *experience* in the non-count sense (Table 10) I found that the noun was, in most cases, correctly translated as *zkušenost*. Other Czech words that were used as the second most frequent translation of the non-count usage of the noun *experience* were the noun *setkání* (88) and a paraphrase using its verb form, *setkat se* (89):

88) Knowing he must speak with the woman, Doyle lingered on the edge of the circle of acolytes who pressed in around her, hungry for *more direct experience* of the truths she was peddling.

Doyle věděl, že s tou ženou musí hovořit, a prodléval proto na okraji kroužku přívrženců, kteří se kolem ní nahrnuli hladovi po *bezprostřednějším setkání* s pravdami, které nabízela. (MF_LS)

89) No single one of my acquaintances can confirm anyone has ever had *direct experience* of such an individual.

Ani jediný z mých spojenců nemůže potvrdit, že *by se byl* s takovým člověkem *osobně setkal*. (MF_LS)

However, according to the Collins English Thesaurus, one of the English equivalents for the Czech noun *setkání*, *contact*, is among the synonyms for the non-count sense of the noun *experience* (*zkušenost*) and thus, can be considered a correct translation (Collins English Thesaurus 2014):

Synonyms of the Non-count Noun <i>Experience</i>
knowledge
understanding
practice
skill
evidence
trial
contact
expertise
know-how
proof
involvement
exposure

observation
participation
familiarity
practical knowledge

Table 12 Synonyms of the noun *experience* in the non-count use

Both of the sentences, (88) and (89), come from the book *The List of Seven* written by *Mark Frost*. They were both pre-modified by the adjective *direct*, which, however, appears also among the adjectives pre-modifying the noun *experience* in the count sense (90). That is an interesting fact, especially since the sentence containing the noun *experience* pre-modified by the adjective *direct* in the count sense was also written by *Mark Frost*. The same author used the same adjectival pre-modifier with the same noun once in the count and twice in the non-count sense, which might imply that sometimes, there is a fine line between the usage of the count and the non-count noun *experience* and that it might depend on the context. The COCA, however, shows that the adjective *direct* appears more frequently with the noun *experience* in the non-count sense:

Countability	Query	Number of Occurrences
a direct experience	a an direct experience -[n*]	15
direct experience	-a an direct experience -[n*]	139

Table 13 The noun *experience* in the count and the non-count use pre-modified by the adjective *direct*

90) No artifice or barrier between him and *a direct experience* of who she was.

Neexistovalo žádné předstírání, žádná přehrada mezi ním a *přímým prožitkem* toho, jaká je. (MF_LS)

Another sentence from *The List of Seven* by *Mark Frost* was not entirely translated as the clause containing the non-count noun *experience* pre-modified by the adjective *authentic* was avoided:

91) It wasn't until the end of her life that Margaret Fox confessed the enterprise had been nothing more than an increasingly sophisticated series of parlor tricks, by which time it was far too late to still a vox populi starved for *authentic experience* of the supernatural.

Teprve ke konci života přiznala Margaret Foxová, že celý podnik nebyl ničím jiným než řadou stále rafinovanějších manipulací a triků. Tou dobou bylo ale už příliš pozdě. (MF_LS)

The non-count use of the noun *experience* was translated as *zážitek* when pre-modified by adjectives such as *personal* and *real-life*. These adjectives, however, appeared with the non-count use of the noun also in the meaning of *zkušenost*.

This might imply, once again, that it is the context that is crucial for the translator to choose either the noun *zkušenost* or *zážitek*.

In the following sentences the noun *zážitek* appears to be more appropriate than the noun *zkušenost* since the author means the simple fact of being in a situation, witnessing something rather than learning a lesson from what they witnessed and applying it later which happens in case of the noun *zkušenost*:

92) People denying that imagination was real, or insisting that imagination was not as real as *personal experience*; it was the same old thing.

Od lidí popírajících, že představivost je skutečná, nebo trvajících na tom, že představivost není tak skutečná jako *osobní zážitek* - stále jedno a totéž. (JI_WOY)

93) And she would ask the police (and the public) to believe that she was observing the prostitute with a customer for “research” - this from a novelist on record as saying that *real-life experience* was second-rate in comparison to what one could imagine!

A bude žádat policii (a veřejnost), aby jí věřili, že pozorovala prostitutku se zákazníkem kvůli “přípravě” - tohle všechno udělá spisovatelka, která prohlašuje, že *skutečné životní zážitky* jsou druhořadé ve srovnání s tím, co si člověk představuje! (JI_WOY)

CONCLUSION

The bachelor thesis focused on the lexeme *experience* with regard to its countability as a semantic-grammatical category. The purpose was to either confirm or refute Cruse's theory about "compositional autonomy", which "refers to the fact that in a compositional process, for instance the modification of a noun by an adjective, one of the participating elements will engage with, or take as its scope, only a portion of the meaning of the other." (Croft and Cruse 2004, 114) In the practical part of my thesis I applied this to the noun *experience* and researched whether a single sense of the noun could potentially have different adjectival modifiers.

In the first part, using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) by *Mark Davies*, I looked for the most frequent adjectives that occur in the pre-modification of the noun *experience*. Applying Huddleston and Pullum's semantic subclassification of adjectives I discovered that the noun *experience* when used as count is more likely to appear with expressive attributives related to opinions, feelings and quality. The non-count use of the noun, however, occurs in pre-modification with adjectives related to historical perspective, i.e. origin, time, and individual knowledge.

When analyzing the non-count use of the noun *experience* I came across many examples where the noun was preceded by the definite article, which belongs to determiners that cannot be classified as either count or non-count. Such cases of the noun were excluded from the research and examined separately using another searching query. I found out that the most frequent adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun *experience* when preceded by the definite article are *American*, *black* or other adjectives representing members of another group in society, which is in agreement with the forth entry on the noun *experience* in the OALD and LDOCE.

During my research I also found out that the adjectives pre-modifying the plural form of the noun *experience* (*experiences*) are similar to those pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun *experience*. Cognitive linguists refer to this grammatical behavior as "pluralization."

In the second part I used the parallel multilingual corpus InterCorp to investigate how the count and non-count uses of the lexeme *experience* are translated into Czech. Poldauf claims that the count use of the noun *experience* is translated as *zážitek* and

when used as non-count it is translated as *zkušenost*. Often, however, the count use of the noun *experience* was translated as *zkušenost* when pre-modified by adjectives such as: *dire*, *heady*, *physical*, *bad*, *interesting* and *new*. The non-count noun *experience* was translated as *zážitek* when pre-modified by adjectives *personal* and *real-life*. During this part of the research I came to the conclusion that rather than specific adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun it is the context and subjective feeling of the particular author that decides if the noun *experience* will be translated as *zkušenost* or *zážitek*.

RESUMÉ

V této práci jsem se zaměřila na podstatné jméno *experience* s ohledem na počitatelnost jako sémanticko-gramatickou kategorii. Práce je rozdělena na dvě části - teoretickou část a praktickou část.

V teoretické části popisuji základní kritéria nezbytná pro klasifikování substantiv na počitatelná a nepočitatelná, a to například, použití členů, kvantifikátory a množné číslo. Porovnála jsem stupeň gramatikalizace počitatelnosti v českém jazyce. Dále jsem se v této práci zabývala polysémií substantiv s ohledem na množství změn ve významu, které jsou přítomny při re-kategorizaci substantiv z nepočitatelných na počitatelná. Při zkoumání významu podstatného jména *experience* jsem použila různé, online dostupné slovníky, a sice, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD)*, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE)*, *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (Macmillan)*, *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (CALD)*, *Collins English Dictionary* a *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* a výstupy z nich porovnávala.

Hlavní výzkumnou otázkou práce bylo zjistit, zda se význam substantiv mění na základě toho, jakými adjektivy jsou pre-modifikována. Tuto teorii „kompoziční samostatnosti“ jsem aplikovala na zkoumané substantivum *experience* a zjišťovala jsem, zda se každý jednotlivý význam tohoto substantiva vyskytuje s jinými adjektivy v pre-modifikaci. K tomuto výzkumu jsem využila sémantického rozdělení adjektivních pre-modifikátorů, jak jej uvádí Huddleston a Pullum.

V praktické části, jsem pak využila Korpusu současné americké angličtiny (COCA), který jsem popsala spolu s metodami, kterých jsem využila pro detailnější zkoumání substantiva *experience* jak v počitatelném tak nepočitatelném užití. Zkoumala jsem adjektiva, která nejčastěji rozvíjí toto substantivum a porovnávala je na základě sémantického dělení zmíněného již v teoretické části. Zjistila jsem, že počitatelné užití substantiva *experience* se vyskytuje s adjektivy, která popisují pocity a názory. Adjektiva v pre-modifikaci s nepočitatelným užitím se týkají původu, času a individuální znalosti. V průběhu výzkumu jsem potvrdila teorii „pluralizace“ kognitivních lingvistů, a to sice, že substantivum *experience* v plurálu (*experiences*) je pre-modifikováno stejnými adjektivy jako v případě nepočitatelného užití.

V další části výzkumu a analýzy jsem se zaměřila na české překlady substantiva *experience* v paralelním multilinguálním korpusu InterCorp a zjišťovala, zda je *experience* překládána jako *zkušenost* v nepočitatelném užití a jako *zážitek* v počitatelném užití, jak tvrdí Poldauf v *Mluvnici současné angličtiny* a Hais a Hodek ve *Velkém anglicko-českém slovníku*. Toto tvrzení jsem na základě několika příkladů vyvrátila. Slova *zkušenost* a *zážitek* jsou autory často zaměňována, jelikož mají společnou určitou část významu. Autoři se také při překladu substantiva *experience* řídili spíše kontextem než adjektivy v pre-modifikaci.

REFERENCES

Allan, Keith. 1980. "Nouns and countability". *Language*. Vol. 56, No. 3: 541-567. Linguistic Society of America.

Croft, W, Cruse D. A. 2004. *Cognitive Linguistics*. Cambridge: University Press

Cruse, Alan. 2011. *Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. Oxford: University Press.

Dušková, Libuše a kol. 1988. *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny*. Praha: Academia, nakladatelství Československé akademie věd.

Hais K., Hodek B. 1984. *Velký anglicko-český slovník*. Praha: Academia,

Huddleston, Rodney, and Geoffrey K. Pullum. 2002. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: University Press.

Huddleston, Rodney, and Geoffrey K. Pullum. 2005. *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: University Press.

Langacker R. 1990. *Concept, Image and Symbol*. Mouton de Gruyter.

Poldauf. 1951. *Mluvnice současné angličtiny I*. Praha: Státní nakladatelství učebnic.

Quirk, R., Leech, G., Greenbaum S., and Jan Svartvik. 1997. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. Harlow : Longman.

InterCorp examples quoted from:

JA_C

Angell, Jeanette. 2004. *Callgirl*. Permanent Press. (The Czech Translation: Klůfová, Petra. 2006. *Dvojit život*.)

DB_AD

Brown, Dan. 2006. *Angels and Demons*. Atria Books. (The Czech Translation: Marková, Michala. 2006. *Andělé a démoni*.)

SB_HD

Brown, Sandra. 2003. *Hello, Darkness*. Simon & Schuster. (The Czech Translation: Válková, Marie. 2005. *Zdravím tě, temnoto*.)

MF_LS

Frost, Mark. 1993. *The List of Seven*. QPD. (The Czech Translation: Rambousek, Jiří. 1995. *Seznam sedmi*.)

JG_C

Grisham, John. 1993. *The Client*. Arrow Books Ltd. (The Czech Translation: Orel, Josef. 2005. *Klient*.)

JL_WOY

Irving, John. 1998. *A Widow for One Year*. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC. (The Czech Translation: Nováková, Milada. 2000. *Rok vdovou*.)

JL_LS

Lindsey, Johanna. 2004. *A Loving Scoundrel*. Atria Books. (The Czech Translation: Tetřevová, Renáta. 2005. *Zamilovaný ničema*.)

PR_HS

Roth, Philip. 2001. *The Human Stain*. Vintage. (The Czech Translation: Hanuš, Jiří. 2005. *Lidská skvrna*.)

Online References

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, s.v. "experience,"

http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/experience_1 (Accessed April 10, 2014).

Collins English Dictionary, s.v. "experience,"

<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/experience> (Accessed April 10, 2014).

Collins English Thesaurus, s.v. "experience,"

<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-thesaurus/experience> (Accessed July 18, 2014).

Český národní korpus – InterCorp. Ústav Českého národního korpusu FF UK. Praha.
<http://www.korpus.cz> (Accessed July 20, 2014).

Davies, Mark. (2008). *The Corpus of Contemporary American English*. Available online at <http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>. (Accessed May 14, 2014).

Jirásek, Ivo. (2004). *Vymezení pojmu zážitková pedagogika*. Gymnasion.
<http://artefiletika.kvk.zcu.cz/clanky/8-teorie-artefiletiky/105-zazitkova-pedagogika>
(Accessed July 20, 2014).

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, s.v. “experience,”
http://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/experience_1 (Accessed April 10, 2014).

Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners, s.v. “experience,”
<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/experience> (Accessed April 10, 2014).

Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, s.v. “experience,”
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/experience> (Accessed April 10, 2014).

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, s.v. “memory,”
http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/experience_1 (Accessed April 10, 2014).

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun <i>experience</i> in the count use.....	26
Figure 2 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun <i>experience</i> in the non-count use.	29
Figure 3 The query used to find adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun <i>experience</i> with the definite article.....	33
Figure 4 The query used to find the noun <i>experience</i> pre-modified by an adjective in the InterCorp	36

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Criteria for classifying count and non-count nouns (Cruse 2011, 272)	9
Table 2 Criteria for classifying count and non-count nouns (Dušková et al. 1988, 51-52)	11
Table 3 Development of the category of number and countability (Poldauf 1951, 26).	13
Table 4 Adjectives illustrating possible interactions of the semantic classes (Quirk 1997, 436)	23
Table 5 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the count use of the noun <i>experience</i>	27
Table 6 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the non-count use of the noun <i>experience</i> ..	31
Table 7 Adjectives pre-modifying the noun <i>experience</i> with the definite article	34
Table 8 Adjectives usually pre-modifying the plural form of the noun <i>experience</i>	35
Table 9 The Czech translations of the noun <i>experience</i> in the count use.....	38
Table 10 The Czech translations of the noun <i>experience</i> in the non-count use	38
Table 11 Adjectival pre-modifiers of the noun <i>zážitek</i> and <i>zkušenost</i> in Czech	40
Table 12 Synonyms of the noun <i>experience</i> in the non-count use	43
Table 13 The noun <i>experience</i> in the count and the non-count use pre-modified by the adjective <i>direct</i>	43