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VĚTNÉ A POLOVĚTNÉ SUBJEKTY V RŮZNÝCH FUNKČNÍCH STYLECH

(CLAUSAL AND SEMI-CLAUSAL SUBJECTS IN DIFFERENT REGISTERS)

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ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis examines clausal and semi-clausal subjects – structures formed either by a finite clause or by an infinitive and gerund. The author uses written contemporary English as the source of data. The main areas of interest are: the frequency of particular structures, the position of these structures in the sentence (initial position or extraposition) and the factors influencing the position of these structures, such as the length and the internal structure of the subject clauses. The first part contains a brief theoretical introduction into the subject and explains the methodology of the work. The second, practical part contains selected excerpts that deserve attention due to their typical or atypical features. The third part presents the results of the research and explains problems encountered during the work.

ANOTACE

Tato diplomová práce zkoumá větné a polovětné podměty – struktury tvořené buď větou finitní, nebo prostřednictvím infinitivu či gerundia, a to na psaném materiálu současné angličtiny. Hlavní oblasti zájmu jsou: četnost jednotlivých forem podmětu ve srovnání s podměty nominálními, jejich pozice ve větě (iniciální pozice či extrapozice) a faktory ovlivňující pozici podmětů, délku a jejich vnitřní strukturu. První část obsahuje stručný teoretický úvod do problematiky a vysvětluje metodiku práce. Druhá část – praktická –
obsahuje vybrané excerpované příklady větných a polovětných podmětů s komentářem. Tyto příklady byly vybrány na základě své typičnosti či atypičnosti. Třetí část prezentuje výsledky práce a zabývá se problémy, které při práci nastaly.

Na tomto místě bych rád poděkoval vedoucímu své diplomové práce, panu PhDr. Vladislavu Smolkovi za jeho neocenitelnou spolupráci.

CONTENTS

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The theoretical part of this work contains a short summary of the basic facts about the subject in English. It briefly sums up possible formal realisations of the subject in English, and describes the structures relevant to this thesis. The summary focuses only on the syntactic and semantic aspects of the subject – there are of course other important aspects related to the subject – for example the phonological aspects – but these are marginal in relation to the subject of this thesis.

1.2. EXPRESSING THE SUBJECT IN ENGLISH

The subject is one of the basic sentence elements, and in English sentences, as opposed to Czech, the subject must be explicitly present. The exceptions are imperative sentences: *Wipe your feet!*, "block language" *No entry!*, or ellipses *He smiled, put on his hat and quietly walked away.*

1.3. NOUN OR PRONOUN

The subject is typically and most often expressed by a noun or pronoun: *Manchek disliked Jaggers, who was effete and precious.* (Crichton 1969: 11). *It was fitted with two side-slung 16mm cameras.* (Crichton 1969: 11), but can also be expressed by other syntactic nouns – parts of speech or structures that can act as nouns.

1.4. EXPLETIVE AND ANTICIPATORY IT

- the expletive *it* that doesn't refer to anything and is only a formal instrument, as seen in these examples: *It rains. It is getting dark.*

- anticipatory *it,* cataphorically referring to infinitive, gerundial or clausal subject when it is in extraposition after the verb: *It took us a week to drill through the fused rock, since we did not have the proper tools for a task like this.* (Clarke 1437). *And it was a great drawback that no animal was able to use any tool that involved standing on his hind legs* (Orwell 7)*.* (Dušková 1994: 394)

1.5. THERE

There in the position of subject occurs in existential or existential-locative sentences. It is clearly distinguishable from the referential *there*. *There (existential) is a new interesting exhibition there (referential).* Here the verb accords with the notional subject following the verb: *There comes our bus. There were many people at the stadium.* (Dušková 1994: 394)

1.6. CLAUSAL AND SEMI-CLAUSAL SUBJECTS

Apart from the nominal and pro-nominal phrases, subject can be realized by nominal clauses – clauses approximating in function to noun phrases which fall into six major categories (Quirk et al. 1985: 1048)

- infinitive clauses
- ing-clauses
- nominal that-clauses
- dependent interrogative clauses
- nominal relative clause
- subordinate exclamative clauses

1.7. SEMI-CLAUSAL SUBJECTS

When we compare English and Czech, we find that English uses condensed forms (gerunds, participles and infinitives) much more often than Czech, where subordinate clauses are used more often. This is partly because of the fact that the English means of condensation can express voice and to a limited extent also tense, while Czech uses only subordinate clauses. The other reason might be that in English sentences the subject is always expressed and thus there is no danger of misunderstanding.

1.7.1. THE INFINITIVE

The infinitive in English is an unmarked verbal form, either used in its bare form (be, speak, go) or introduced by the particle *to (to be, to speak, to go)*. The split infinitive can also occur – it is used to evade possible misinterpretations. *He decided to do it secretly. / He decided to secretly do it.* The infinitive can be either positive *(stay, to leave)* or negative *(not to stay, not to leave).* The infinitive also occurs in temporal forms i.e. present or past, as illustrated in the following chart:

Chart 1. – The infinitive

INFINITIVE	PRESENT FORM	PAST FORM
ACTIVE SIMPLE	to speak	to have spoken
	to decide	to have decided
ACTIVE CONTINUOUS	to be speaking	to have been speaking
	to be deciding	to have been deciding
PASSIVE	to be spoken	to have been spoken
	to be decided	to have been decided
PASSIVE CONTINUOUS	*to be being spoken	*to have been being spoken
	*to be being decided	*to have been being decided

*these forms are not used very often as they are often considered too complicated.

The present form of the infinitive expresses simultaneity with the main verb or with the matrix clause predicate if the infinitive is the subject: *It's a mistake to try and understand mathematics.* or *It was a mistake to try and understand mathematics.* It can also express posteriority: *They will want to start at once.*

The past form of the infinitive expresses the antecedence in respect to the time of the main verb or the matrix clause predicate.

The negative forms with the above mentioned examples are: *not to speak, not to have spoken, not to have been decided* etc…

The use of active infinitive is more frequent, sometimes it is used instead of the passive form: *the flat is to rent, he is not to blame.* In the excerpted examples for this thesis mostly infinitives in simple present (either positive or negative) form have been found.

The infinitive as the subject

Infinitive as the subject expresses a state or action that is usually evaluated, or compared to another state or action. The predicate in these situations is usually of verbo-nominal structure with an evaluative substantive or adjective. *To say that Phobos has a diameter of twenty kilometres, as the astronomy books invariably do, is highly misleading.* (Clarke 908). Often, the predicate contains verbs with meaning similar to "*mean*". *To say this is to assume, surely realistically, that in order to understand the text, the reader brings to it a mental model of the expected style, must recognize the style intuitively, through prior learned knowledge, and be able to read into it the values it embodies* (Fowler 39). The usual structure of sentences with verbo-nominal predicate is that with the infinitive extraposed after the subject using the ancipatory *"it"* in the position of the subject. *It is important to the newspapers to include references to people - because of the factor of "personalization" mentioned above - but their status as sources is accidental rather than privileged.* (Fowler 22).

A specific structure is when the predicate contains evaluative adjectives like *difficult, easy, impossible, unbelievable* or nouns like *problem, fun, pleasure* and so on. Transposition using the anticipatory *it* is often used in these cases. *It's a pleasure to meet you here.* The agent or patient of the action can be mentioned here using the preposition *for: The driving test was difficult for him to pass.*

Similar structures occur with adjectives like *smart, foolish, wise* etc. These adjectives usually refer to the agent of the action – the agent is often mentioned within a PP using the preposition *of: It was clever of him to lock the house for the night.*

Infinitive subject clauses are usually extraposed in all the three registers examined in this thesis.

1.7.2. THE ING-CLAUSE

The gerund is another non-finite verb form that can act as subject in a sentence. Its form is identical to the form of the present participle, however, it differs in terms of use. Gerund is formed by adding the suffix *–ing* to the infinitive. Like the infinitive it occurs in present and past forms, as well as active and passive forms, as illustrated in the following chart.

Chart 2. - Gerund

GERUND	PRESENT FORM	PAST FORM
ACTIVE	speaking	having spoken
	deciding	having decided
PASSIVE	being spoken	having been spoken
	being decided	having been decided

The negative gerund is formed by adding the particle *not* before the gerund *(not speaking, not having been decided).*

The gerund is distinguished from the participle by its syntactic functions – the gerund tends to behave more like a noun, while the participle behaves more like an adjective. Syntactically, the gerund can have the function of the subject, object or adverbial. The verbal and nominal characteristics of the gerund are often combined: *I regret having told him that.* Syntactically it is an object, which is a nominal characteristic, but it also implies that the action happened in the past – which is a feature of a verb. Other verbal characteristics of the gerund are that it distinguishes the voice and tense, has the same valency as a finite verb and can be modified by an adverbial.

The nominal characteristics of gerund include more width in expressing the temporal relations and voice. For example: *I don't regret following your advice* can be understood either as *I don't regret that I have followed your advice* or *I don't regret that I am following your advice.*

It is necessary to distinguish the gerund from the deverbative noun, although the transition between them is very smooth: *His painting fascinated me.* This sentence can be interpreted in three ways: *the pictures he had painted fascinated me,* - here "painting" would be a noun; or *the way he paints his pictures fascinates me,* - here it would be a gerund describing the activity of painting pictures; *the mere fact that he painted the pictures fascinated me.*

Gerund as the subject

Gerund as the subject can describe an action or process, or a state or fact. The verbs that allow this are the verbs expressing influence on mental or emotional state like *astonish, surprise, worry* and so on, but in fact it can act as subject with any verb (Dušková 1994, 571).

There are infrequent cases when we can use either gerund or infinitive – these are generally valid statements: *Seeing is believing. / To see is to believe.* (Dušková 1994: 571). However, usually one of the uses is more frequent that the other. The infinitive is more often used with general statements, while gerund more likely to occur in expressing concrete actions. Gerund has usually more general validity, while the infinitive is used for expressing unique or single occasions: *Learning a foreign language is complex task. / To learn a foreign language would be useful.* However this is quite relative: *To yawn is impolite. / Yawning is impolite*. (Dušková 1994: 571).

When the agent of the gerund is not expressed it is considered to be universal. *Having something stolen from or out of a car was much more common than having the car itself stolen* (The Burden of Crime in the EU 2005: 29). *Alpine hiking is very demanding.* For you/me/them…

Naturally, the agent can be expressed in various ways: with a possessive pronoun *Their waiting had not been in vain.* (Adams 1996: 92), by directly introducing the agent using the preposition *for: So heading to the seaside in a caravan is a much more attractive holiday option for budget-conscious families.* (The Daily Mirror 2007), or

introducing the agent as an object: *Not having enough money taught her to economize* (Dušková 1994: 571).

Subject ing-clauses are less frequent than infinitive clauses and they usually occur in the initial position.

1.8. CLAUSAL SUBJECTS

Clausal subjects can be divided into three basic categories: that-clauses, dependent interrogative clauses and nominal relative clauses. Some authors include the dependent interrogative clauses and nominal wh-nominal relative clauses in one group.

1.8.1. FINITE NOMINAL SUBJECT CLAUSES - THAT-CLAUSES

The that-clause, or dependent declarative clause, is most frequently found in extraposition and anticipated by *it*: … *it seemed highly unlikely that Tsien expected to be chased by heat-seeking missiles.* (Clarke 1982: 157). The that-clause can occur in the position before verb when the predicate is long and complicated, or when it is rhematic: *That the incident was 'not serious enough' was by far the most important reason for not bringing in the police*. (The Burden of Crime in the EU 2005: 70). The that-clause is often associated with verbs expressing emotional movements *(surprise, astonish, frighten)* and with predicates containing evaluation or modality *(certain, probable, strange, embarrassing, surprising). It should be clear that linguistically constructed representation is by no means a deliberate process, entirely under control of the newspaper.* (Fowler 1993: 41). The that-clause in the position of subject can be introduced by *the fact that… The fact that he had become President of the Galaxy was frankly astonishing, as was the manner of his leaving the post.* (Adams 1996: 65).

1.8.2. DEPENDENT INTERROGATIVE CLAUSES

Dependent interrogative clauses occur after verbs and expressions expressing question, doubt, uncertainty, need for information like *I'm not sure, Can you tell me, I wonder* and so on. They are introduced by the same question words as the regular interrogative clauses, but differ in the word order – they have the same word order as declarative sentences: *What is the time? Can you tell me what the time is?* They can also be introduced, contrary to the direct questions by conjunctions *whether* and *if*.

The wh-dependent interrogative clauses often act as subjects, either in the initial position or extraposed by anticipatory *it*. *What is happening now is something quite exciting.* (Geographical 2006).

The yes-no dependent interrogative clauses are formed with *whether* or *if*, and can also act as subjects. *It also remains to be seen whether prion-infected taste cells or saliva could transmit disease when eaten.* (New Scientist 2006).

1.8.3. DEPENDENT NOMINAL RELATIVE CLAUSES

Dependent nominal relative clauses are introduced by what, where, which, how, why and by wh-ever expressions. They can function as the same parts of speech where a noun could be used. They are often found in the function of subjects: *Whatever it was raced across the sky in monstrous yellowness, tore the sky apart with mind-buggering noise and leapt off into the distance leaving the gaping air to shut behind it with a bang that drove your ears six feet into your skull.* (Adams 1996: 17).

1.8.4. SUBORDINATE EXCLAMATORY CLAUSES

Subordinate exclamatory clauses generally have form similar to the dependent interrogative clauses, and can also function as extraposed subjects.

It's incredible how fast she can run!

(Quirk 1985: 1055)

Owing to the fact, that there were only a few examples of subordinate exclamatory clauses found, these are mentioned in the section Other Examples in the practical part of this work.

1.9. SEMANTICS OF THE SUBJECT

There are several semantic roles of the nominal subject:

- an agent: *After the clock stroke five, she left the house.* This is the typical case when the subject is the „doer".
- an affected participant: *The car was stolen between one and three o'clock in the morning.*
- a patient: *The representative was sent on a business trip to India;*
- a recipient: *He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1984.*

1.10. SUBJECT IN THE FUNCTIONAL SENTENCE PERSPECTIVE

In English and also in Czech, the subject constitutes mostly the theme. However, the tendency to make the subject the theme is stronger in English, due to the functioning of the English word order. The thematical subject in English is usually located before the main verb, which is, in the case of declarative sentences in the beginning. In Czech, owing to the looser word order, the theme is often expressed also by other parts of speech.

Rhematical subject denotes some new information and is often connected with elements indicating its appearance or existence (Dušková 1994: 399-400).

The main procedure of expressing theme or rheme in a Czech sentence is the word order. However, in English there are more means to indicate the focus of the sentence, for example intonation, accent, cleft and pseudo-cleft sentence, passive voice and extraposition.

Clausal and semi-clausal subjects

The clausal and semi-clausal subjects are more difficult to classify than the nominal subjects. The initial subject that-clauses should have thematical status, as it often sums up the content of the previous text (Smolka 2005: 35): In such cases, the initial subject that-clause is often a paraphrase or even a repetition of a structure appearing in the previous text. The ing-clauses show a strong preference for the initial position, probably due to the fact that they tend to express verbal actions that are understood as really occurring (compared to the infinitive indicating potential or hypothetical action.

According to Smolka the analysis of corpus of authentic text is often plagued by a number of difficulties, such as establishing precisely the boundaries between separate types of clauses (e.g., between dependent interrogative clauses and nominal relative clauses) and especially in determining the FSP status of the subject clause. With all this in mind it is still possible to conclude that the FSP factor, or, more precisely, the thematic status of the subject represents the essential condition allowing the initial position of the subject clause. However, for the thematic subject clause to be placed initially, at least some of the other factors must operate accordingly, otherwise the result is the extraposition of the subject.

With rhematic subject clauses, the FSP principle dominates again, strongly favouring their extraposition, unless prevented from doing so by syntactic reasons or by very strong opposition of the other factors. The interplay of these factors is, however, almost invariably complex and their relative weight extremely hard to determine (Smolka 2005: 36-37).

1.11. MODIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT

The nominal subject can of course be modified by adjectives and or postmodified by relative clause, present participle, infinitive and other linguistic forms. The possible modifications depend on the nature of the subject and can vary accordingly. *The girl brought him a glass of water with ice. / The dark haired girl who came with him brought him a glass of water with ice.* However, the modification of the clausal and semi-clausal subjects is limited.

1.12. CHOICE OF RESOURCES

For this diploma thesis, I chose contemporary British texts from the three registers – fiction, scientific writing and news.

The texts for fiction are not older than 60 years, the oldest one being George Orwell's Animal Farm (1946), all the other text are considerably newer. The authors of the texts are Douglas Adams, Martin Amis, Ian Banks, Arthur Charles Clarke and George Orwell. The choice of genres includes science-fiction and serious writing, and both short stories and novels.

For the news register I chose one British broadsheet paper (although it now comes in compact size) The Times, the only British full-colour paper The Guardian and the tabloid Daily Mirror. I also included the written BBC News, which I accessed only in the electronic form on the internet. I chose to do this because the internet is nowadays a very important medium of conveying news it also reflects the development of the language. The BBC English is considered standard and the level of the news can be compared to that of "serious" papers. The last item included in this register is the Geographical, issued by the Royal Geographical Society. It might border on the science register, but as it is written for general public I included the excerpts from this magazine in this section.

For the science register I excerpted texts from the journal New Scientist, from the European Commission report A Comparative Analysis

of the European Crime and Safety Survey (EU ICS) 2005 and from the book by Roger Fowler, Language in the News – Discourse and ideology in the press, which is a study how language in the news can be used to form the ideas and beliefs of the readers.

1.13. METHODOLOGY

The procedure taken after the selection of the texts was as follows: I looked for the examples of clausal and semi-clausal subjects in the texts and then I excerpted them and categorized them by their nature into the five categories (ing-clause, infinitive, that-clause, dependent interrogative clause, nominal relative clause). Then I studied the position of the subject – whether it was initial, extraposed or posposed. I chose some of the examples worth mentioning and commented on them in the following part of the thesis. For the purposes of evaluation and comparison I listed the results in a chart where the total number of examples is noted, as well as their type, position and their relative representation in 100,000 words.

As the FSP factor seems to be the most prominent for the position of the position of the subject clauses, the thematical / rhematical status of the clauses had been determined (where possible) and have been considered in the conclusion.

I had most of the material in electronic form – mostly in .pdf files so I used the word processor tool to count the number of the words. However, this method poses a certain problem – the word processor distinguishes the boundary between words according to the spaces, so it considers groups like *it's, wouldn't, they'll* as one word each, on the other hand, it computes as one word abbreviations *(NATO, UNICEF)*, hyphenated words *(nutrient-rich)* and some other expressions. I believe that statistically these divergences do not significantly influence the final result.

With the materials accessible only in the 'paper' form, I used the same method for counting the words as the computer did.

II. PRACTICAL PART

2.1. SELECTED EXCERPTS WITH COMMENTARY

This part of the thesis contains selected excerpts that were chosen because of their typical or atypical features. The examples are sorted according to their types and they are commented on with respect to their semantic, stylistic and other features.

2.1.1. INFINITIVE

- *"Earthman," he said, "it is sometimes hard to follow your mode of speech."* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction, Adams 1996: 84). Direct speech appeared mostly in fiction and in the news, never in the scientific writing.
- *No one would ever accuse him of being a genius; and sometimes it required genius to see the blindingly obvious.* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 1982: 252) One of the typical examples of the infinitive subject.
- *To be good at soldiering, it said, is a great curse, I think sometimes.* (infinitive, initial position, fiction, Banks 1990: 258). One of the less frequent examples of infinitive in the initial position and in direct speech – the infinitive most often occurs in the extraposition.
- *To fight for what would inevitably melt and could never provide food or minerals or permanent place to live, seemed an almost deliberate caricature of conventional folly of war.* (infinitive, initial position, fiction, Banks 1990: 287). This infinitive is in the initial position, probably because of the length of the predication of the matrix clause. The transformation with the use of anticipatory it would probably negatively affect the comprehensibility of the sentence. *? It seemed an almost deliberate caricature of conventional folly of war to fight for what would inevitably melt*

and could never provide food or minerals or permanent place to live.

- *It took Alistair a little while to explain who he was.* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction, Amis 1999: 12) Typical example of an extraposed infinitive with the agent expressed.
- *It is vitally important not to believe them or they will suddenly be right.* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction, Adams 1996: 39). One of the few negative infinitives found in the fiction.
- *For some days now a fast enemy cruiser had been coming up astern, and though it was flattering to have the undivided attention of such a fine ship and so many highly trained men, it was an honour that K.15 would willingly have forgone.* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction) The infinitive subject clause also constitutes subject of the clause *… it was an honour that K.15 would willingly have forgone.,* where it is referred to anaphorically by the pronoun *it.*
- *But to say that the voice is an institutional construct, and therefore impersonal in origin, is not to say that it is not personal in style.* (infinitive, initial position, science, Fowler 1993: 39). An example of the infinitive in the initial position in science – it is much less likely to appear than in extraposition. Here the infinitive subject is compared, or rather opposed to the negative infinitive of the same verb. This particular structure: infinitive (subject) – verb – infinitive (subject complement), occurs more often in the scientific writing than in fiction or news.
- *Such usage has not been empirically established anyway, and, conversely, it would be absurd to regard the Sun as a source of evidence for the structure of personal language.* (infinitive, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 40). An example where the extraposition is structured with the verb to be, but in this case it occurs in the conditional mode, which is not as frequent as the declarative mode.

- *This I could have accepted, hard though it is to look upon whole worlds and peoples thrown into the furnace.* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction). What is interesting here from the stylistic point of view is the inversion of the predication *…though it is hard.* This structure expresses the possibility.
- *Many are amputees, so it is good to know, that the Defense Advanced Research projects Agency and the Department of Veterans affairs (VA) are developing new prosthetics devices.* (infinitive, extraposed, science, New Scientist 2006). Typical example of the use of the infinitive in extraposition; one interesting feature is the use of the comma before *that,* there is also a that-clause, which is the object of *to know.*
- *"To have held a 15-year-old boy in the harsh and lawless conditions of Guantánamo for five years has already been a travesty of justice — and to put him before an unfair 'military commission' trial simply adds to a disgraceful record in his case," said the Amnesty International UK director Kate Allen.* (infinitive, initial position, news, The Guardian). There are two infinitive subject clauses in this excerpt coordinately connected. In the first one there is the past infinitive, which is not very frequent in any of the three registers.
- *This is Stalinist behaviour — to say things without any proof is very serious.* (infinitive, initial position, news, The Guardian). The infinitive in the initial position is here emphasized by the juxtaposed sentence.

2.1.2. ING-CLAUSES

- *Simply inhaling a vaccine could protect women against cervical cancer.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New Scientist 2006). Example of the most frequent semi-clausal subject in the scientific writing – ing-clause in the initial position.

- *My wiping table gives me pleasure.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Banks 1990: 251). In this example the agent is the same as the patient and is presented here by a possessive pronoun and a personal pronoun respectively.
- *Bouncing, being a bouncer - as a trade, as a calling - had the wrong reputation.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Amis 1999: 48). Here we can se multiple (double) subject; the structure suggests that there really are two subjects, that *bouncing* – as a job in general and bouncers (being a bouncer) as persons had the wrong reputation. However the overall tenor of the short story suggests that both these subjects rally to the job in general and that it is just a reiteration in other wording (see also next example, which directly follows in the text of the story).
- *Bouncing, Mal believed, was misunderstood.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Amis 1999: 48). Relates to the above example, illustrates the overall mood of the story.
- *Seeking to regulate CO2 emissions from cars is relatively easy, as controlling emissions from an engine is fairly straightforward.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New Scientist 2006). Ing-clause in initial position is very common in scientific writing; there is another subject ing-clause in the initial position, and it explains the first sentence.
- *Pruisner's explanation is still the best we have, and it earned him a Nobel Prize in 1997, but though it offers a skeleton for the story of infection, putting flesh on the bones is proving frustrating.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New Scientist 2006). The ing-clause in the initial position in scientific writing is the most frequent example of semi-clausal subject; the notable feature here is the use of set expression 'to put flesh on the bones' – these expressions are more likely to occur in the fiction or in the news. However, this excerpt comes from the New Scientist magazine, so it is why it is mentioned here.

- *Having something stolen from or out of a car was much more common than having the car itself stolen.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, The Burden of Crime in the EU, 2005: 29). In this example the gerund is in the past tense; combined with the use of structure *have something done.*
- *First came the hoisting of the flag.* (ing-clause, postposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 7). The only example of a postposed ing-clause found in the fiction. The inversion here is for stylistic reasons and accordingly to the principles of FSP – the text continues: *First came the hoisting of the flag. Snowball had found in the harness-room an old green tablecloth of Mrs. Jones's and had painted on it a hoof and a horn in white. This was run up the flagstaff… … After the hoisting of the flag…*
- *Spin and momentum become entangled to a higher degree so that changing one produces an even larger change in the other.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New Scientist 2006).
- *Having no claws or fighting canine teeth, and being well protected by hair, they could not inflict much harm on one another. In any event, they had little surplus energy for such unproductive behaviour; snarling and threatening was a much more efficient way of asserting their points of view.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 1982: 4). There is multiple (double) subject in the form of ing-clause in this sentence.
- *Now it was possible to look directly at the source, and to see that it was a mere pinpoint - just another star, showing no dimensions at all.* (ing-clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 1982: 284). There are again two subjects in this sentence – this feature doesn't seem to be rare in fiction, although it may be the preference of an individual author.
- *Among the nine charges against him are the unauthorised possession of classified information, fraternising with the daughter of a detainee, maintaining an inappropriate relationship*

with an interpreter, storing classified information in his quarters and possessing pornographic videos, the statement said. (ing-clause, postposed, news, The Guardian 2007). This is a rare occurrence of postposed subject in the form of an ing-clause. There are in fact five subjects, one of them a noun and the other four are ing-clauses. *Possession* or *possessing* occurs here twice – once as a noun and once as the ing-clause.

- *Seeing the blue sky was supposed to be good for you.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Banks 1990: 281). The ing-clause in the initial position is the least frequent in the fiction writing.
- *Marvin liked it here: it was fun watching the great, slender plants creeping with almost visible eagerness toward the sunlight as it filtered down through the plastic domes to meet them.* (ing-clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 2000: 219). The agent is here expressed here in a separate sentence – there is no syntactical link, but the logical construction of the text indicates that the sentence could be transformed in this way: *It was fun for Marvin…*
- *I feel slightly better about it now - having something even bigger to worry about is perhaps the best cure for any insoluble problem.* (ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 1982: 250)
- *Taking extra vitamin D combined with calcium can increase the risk of kidney stones, while smokers who take beta-carotene to fend off lung cancer actually increase their risk, the report says.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New Scientist 2006). There are two sentences coordinately connected, the subject of the first sentence is the ing-clause, the subject in the second sentence is nominal, but both sentences express generally valid statements.
- *Dumping the weight of a kilometre-thick ice sheep onto a continent or removing a deep column of water from the ocean floor will inevitably affect the stresses and strains on the underlying rock.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, New

Scientist 2006). There are two subjects in the form of ing-clauses, in the adversative relation.

- *Relating ICVS trends in national burglary levels to trends in worry about burglary shows that perceptions of the likelihood of burglary broadly matches trends in ICVS burglary levels.* (ing-clause, initial position, science, The Burden of Crime in the EU, A Comparative Analysis of the European Survey of Crime and Safety (EU ICS) 2005.

2.1.3. THAT-CLAUSES

- *Strange that taste buds have no taste.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Banks 1990: 118). This structure is interesting by the absence of anticipatory *it* - it is the ellipsis of *it is.* This is an example of direct speech - interior monologue.
- *Or it might have been that he saw in the younger screenplay writer someone before whom all false reticence could be cast aside.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Amis 1999: 17). This structure is on the border of a subject clause and a subject-complement clause.
- *That the incident was 'not serious enough' was by far the most important reason for not bringing in the police.* (that-clause, initial position, science, The Burden of Crime in the EU 2005: 70). This is one of the few examples of that-clauses in the initial position, which are very scarce throughout all the three examined registers.
- *"It's a strange thing," said Arthur quietly, "that the further and faster one travels across the Universe, the more one's position in it seems to be largely immaterial, and one is filled with a profound, or rather emptied of a ...* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Adams 1996: 23). Wording is typical for direct speech;

unfinished statement (in the text interrupted by another character's turn).

- *It was announced that the battle would be called the Battle of the Windmill, and that Napoleon had created a new decoration, the Order of the Green Banner, which he had conferred upon himself.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell, 1945: 25). There are in fact two subjects in the form of infinitives, both of them in extraposition due to the passive matrix clause. This particular structure occurs very often in this novel: the that-clause in extraposition as a subject and a passive verb in the matrix clause. The verbs in these particular occurrences of this structure in this work are similar in meaning to *announce* and include for example: *feel, rumour, lay down.* Further examples of this structure follow:

  - *Now that the small field beyond the orchard had been set aside for barley, it was rumoured that a corner of the large pasture was to be fenced off and turned into a grazing-ground for superannuated animals.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 27)
  - *...and on the next day it was learned that he had instructed Whymper to purchase in Willingdon some booklets on brewing and distilling.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 26)
  - *At about the same time it was given out that Napoleon had arranged to sell the pile of timber to Mr. Pilkington.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 23)
  - *And when, some days afterwards, it was announced that from now on the pigs would get up an hour later in the mornings than the other animals, no complaint was made about that either.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 16)

- Once again it was being put about that all the animals were dying of famine and disease, and that they were continually fighting among themselves and had resorted to cannibalism and infanticide. (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 18)

- Their bodies were buried in the orchard, and it was given out that they had died of coccidiosis. (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 19)

- It was also announced that the gun would be fired every year on Napoleon's birthday, as well as on the other two anniversaries. (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 22)

- About this time, too, it was laid down as a rule that when a pig and any other animal met on the path, the other animal must stand aside. (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 27)

This feature is typical for this book and can be explained by the ideas in the book – which is that the animals are governed by the pigs, but this is never expressed explicitly – this also the reason why the agent never occurs in these structures.

- *It is not surprising that the British Press is almost without exception strongly Tory in its political views, and that there is no successful socialist newspaper; the latter would be a contradiction in terms.* (that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 20). The overall structure of the sentence is notable – there are two subject that-clauses, both of them in extraposition, while the second one acts as a subject of the following juxtaposed sentence – it is referred to using the expression *the latter.*
- *It happened that there was in the yard a pile of timber which had been stacked there ten years earlier when a beech spinney was cleared.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 18). An

example of an extraposed that-clause. The subject clause carries the focus – it is rhematical. It is extraposed using the existential verb *it happened*.

- *That the monolith had some internal source of power seemed certain; the solar energy it had absorbed during its brief exposure could not account for the strength of its signal.* (that-clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 1982: 81). This is one of the two examples of that-clause in initial position found in fiction. The second sentence in this excerpt explains, or justifies the statement in the first one. The first part of the statement anticipates the second one. *It seemed certain that the monolith had some internal source of power.* is more or less concluded utterance.
- *It also seemed likely the seven cells had been rounded up separately but announced simultaneously to make a greater public impact.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, The Guardian 2007). That-clause in extraposition with omitted conjunction *that.*
- *It is understood the three banks in the consortium have an agreement that prevents them from making separate offers for the parts of ABN Amro they most want.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, The Guardian 2007). Again a that-clause in extraposition with omitted *that.*
- *And it's important that there aren't huge disparities in wealth and that there aren't people struggling to exist and being denied opportunities to do so, because it puts great pressure on landscapes.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). There are two coordinate subjects in the form of that-clauses.
- *An atheist my entire fucking life, and it turns out that the credulous assholes were right all along.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Banks 1990: 293)
- *It's rather unfair, says Rodrigues, that the countries with the bulk of biodiversity are often the same ones that have fewer resources*

to protect it. (that-clause, extraposed, news, Geographical). One example of a direct speech in the news writing.

- *Sadly, however, it turned out that it was the fact that the bird's colouration mirrored that of the Newcastle football club's strip that had prompted the name.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). There are two that-clauses in the function of subjects, one has been inserted into the other.
- *She says government officials still ask her for money, but with the children only managing to scrounge around 3 RMB a day from begging, it's unlikely she'll be able to pay what she owes any time soon.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). There are two separate sentences in this excerpt, in both of them are that-clauses the first one is the object, the second one the subject. In both of the clauses the conjunction *that* had been omitted. Although it is evident that the omission of *that* isn't connected solely with the that-clauses as subjects, it has been noted that it is frequent in the news writing, while in the fiction and scientific writing it doesn't occur so often. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact, that in the news writing, there is usually need to express as much information by as few words as possible, and therefore any means of condension are used.
- *Even if, in principle, any aspect of structure could be ideologically significant, as a matter of fact it is predicted by theory and confirmed by experience, that certain areas of language are particularly implicated in coding social values.* (that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 67). This subject that-clause is accompanied by two predicates: *…it is predicted by theory* and *…(it is) confirmed by experience.*
- *It is further claimed by students of the media that such propositions tend to be consonant with the ideas of the controlling groups in an industrial-capitalist society, because news is an industry with its own commercial interest.* (that-

clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 2). Regular example – the extraposition here is justified by the fact, that the subject that-clause here is very long, and it is also developed by a causative clause. The FSP status here is unclear, the focus is most likely on the causative clause.

- *It emerges that there are many more distinctions of meaning behind transitivity than the simple syntactic distinction of transitive vs. intransitive expresses.* (that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 71). In this example the that-clause is extraposed using the 'existential' verb *to emerge.*
- *What is overwhelmingly important is the fact that newspaper publication is an industry and a business, with a definite place in the nation's and the world's economic affairs.* (that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 20). The subject that-clause is here extraposed using the structure *the fact that*, the extraposition here is justified by the attributive clause which further develops the subject complement. Without this clause, the transformation: *The fact that newspaper publication is an industry and a business is overwhelmingly important* would be natural.
- *It was found that, though the newspaper appeared to deplore the situation, its language so closely reproduced that of the bureaucrats, politicians and surgeons involved in this problem that the caring point of view was undermined: the paper, like the politicians and hospital administrators, depersonalized the patients, allowing them no individuality or initiative, and reserved all power to those high-ranking people who "deal with them".* (that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 23). This is an example of scientific writing, the overall structure of the sentence is quite complicated.
- *The fact is, that speakers have access to more than one set of semantic settings, more than one "discriminating grid".* (that-

clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 31). That clause extraposed using the structure *the fact that,* the expression *set of semantic settings* is reiterated by the expression *"discriminating grid"* – this fact indicates strong focus on this part of the clause.

- *It was fully realised that though the human beings had been defeated in the Battle of the Cowshed they might make another and more determined attempt to recapture the farm and reinstate Mr. Jones.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 27).
- *It has often been written that the age of the individual inventor is over.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, The Daily Telegraph). The use of the verb *to write* in the matrix clause is interesting – it is very concrete opposed to the usual verbs like *to state*, *to announce* or *to say.*
- *Initially, Baars' reports of a mysterious devil disease received a muted response, but it soon became clear that this wasn't an isolated incident - farmers elsewhere in the northeast reported that devil numbers were dropping, and an increasing number of those killed on the roads exhibited similar facial lesions.* (that-clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). The extraposed that-clause is further explained by a juxtaposed independent sentence.
- *He'd had his kicks: it was only right that the loved one should now have hers.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Amis 1999: 93).
- *It seemed to Rodney that he could walk through Pharsin's legs and out the other side.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Amis 1990: 101). That-clause in extraposition, the agent expressed with the preposition *to* and personal pronoun.
- *It faintly irritated him that Zaphod had to impose some ludicrous fantasy on to the scene to make it work for him.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Adams 1996: 62).

- *It is of course well known that careless talk costs lives, but the full scale of the problem is not always appreciated.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Adams 1996: 99). Typical example of an extraposed that-clause subject. The subject is again reiterated in the second sentence with the nominal subject *problem*.

2.1.4. DEPENDENT INTERROGATIVE CLAUSES

- *Whether that race has done good or evil during its lifetime will make no difference in the end: there is no divine justice, for there is no God.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, fiction) This is a typical example of the dependent interrogative clause in the initial position.
- *But he warns that until the theory behind the results is understood, it is not clear whether the technique could work in the actual ITER reactor.* (interrogative clause, extraposed, science, New Scientist 2006). Typical example of yes-no dependent interrogative clause, it occurs most frequently in the scientific writing.
- *What this means is a question to be discussed in chapter 4, but, briefly, it is not being claimed that the newspaper copies the language which its readership does actually use in private life.* (dependent relative clause, initial position, science, Fowler 1993: 40). There are two occurrences of subject clauses – a thematic dependent interrogative clause in the initial position and a that-clause in extraposition.
- *What connection there can possibly be between a grey squirrel and the Second Jovian War I can't imagine.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 2006: 906).
- *It's obvious, now, why they've taken such a risk - and why they should claim Europa.* (dependent interrogative clause,

extraposed, fiction). There are two subjects in the form of dependent relative clauses in this sentence.

- *And what he saw there - or, rather, what he did not see there - made him forget about Io, and almost everything else.* (nominal relative clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 1982: 255). The interesting thing here are the two subjects in one sentence; they are both in the form of the nominal relative clauses that oppose each other.
- *Strange, thought Floyd, how terminology often survives long after the technology that gave it birth.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 1982: 263). Here the structure is interesting the element *it is* has been elided: *It's strange, thought Floyd, how terminology often survives long after the technology that gave it birth.*
- *How "we" are supposed to behave is exemplified by regular news reports of stories which illustrate such qualities as fortitude, patriotism, sentiment, industry.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, science, Fowler 1993: 16). An example of an interrogative clause in the initial position, it borders on the nominal relative clause.
- *It was strange, thought Floyd, how Chandra - much the smallest person in the room - now seemed the largest.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 1982: 260). The dependent relative clause is split by the attribute.
- *How the medium is used implies option for the producer or editor: the physical and structural characteristics of the medium, whether film, still photography, language etc., offer choices; these choices are made with systematic regularity according to circumstances, and they become associated with conventional meanings.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, science, Fowler 1993: 25). This is an occurrence of a thematic dependent interrogative clause in initial position.

- *Whether the project or not has commercial interests or medical applications is, in a way a secondary concern.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, news, Geographical 2006). The yes/no dependent interrogative question in the function of subject is interesting in the use of element *or not,* which adds more emphasis to the question.
- *It's hard to see how this is a collaboration.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). Direct speech of a non-native speaker.
- *It was uncertain whether Boxer had understood what Clover had said.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, fiction, Orwell 1945: 29). The subject of this sentence is formed by the dependent interrogative clause, while a nominal relative clause functions here as the object.
- *It was still too early to say 'I told you so' - nor did it really matter whether that warning had any validity.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 2000: 255). The subject here is formed by a yes/no dependent interrogative clause.
- *In a global capital market where money can move freely, what determines asset prices in the UK is very much what is happening in the world market.* (dependent interrogative clause, news, The Guardian). One example of a thematic dependent interrogative clause from the news register.
- *How much would it matter if we weren't fighting the good fight?* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, fiction, Banks 1990: 261). Extraposed dependent interrogative clause, could be also considered conditional clause, example of a direct speech.
- *What they completely failed to understand was why Zaphod was doing it.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, fiction, Adams 1996: 20). There are in fact two dependent interrogative clauses in this sentence, one of them functions as the subject, the second one as the subject complement.

- *Whether we are based on carbon or on silicon makes no fundamental difference; we should each be treated with appropriate respect.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 2000: 260). Dependent interrogative clause in the initial position is less frequent than in the extraposition.
- *I hope it is becoming evident to what extent the selection criteria for newsworthiness are, in Hall's words, socially constructed.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposition, science, Fowler 1993: 15). The subject clause – dependent interrogative question – is split by the expression *in Hall's words.*
- *It seems reasonable to assume that newspapers are involved in both of those productive aims, but, in any case, it is immaterial to my argument what exactly is the correct answer.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposition, science, Fowler 1993: 20). There are two occurrences of subject clauses, in the first sentence it is the extraposed infinitive clause *to assume…* and in the second sentence it is the dependent wh- interrogative clause in extraposition.
- *Mathematicians haven't even been able to classify all the possible saddle topologies, so it's not obvious, what signatures they might have.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposition, science, New Scientist 2006). This is a common example of a dependent interrogative clause in extraposition, the use of the comma before *what* is interesting.
- *It should now be clear what is going on here: young women seeking contraceptive advice or supplies are being discriminated for special attention, located at the bottom of a ladder of power relations and implicitly told, like the doctors, to toe the line.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposition, science, Fowler 1993: 109)

- *But, as the ferry pulls away from the terminal, it's quite striking how small Macau is - and hence how vulnerable it is.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposition, news, Geographical 2006). There are in fact two subjects in the form of dependent wh-interrogative questions.
- *It isn't hard to find an illegal site to place a bet and it isn't entirely clear whether the law even covers certain strategy games, such as on-line poker and baccarat.* (dependent interrogative clause, extraposed, news, Geographical 2006). There are two clausal subjects in this sentence. The first one is in infinitive clause, the second one is a dependent interrogative yes/no question.
- *However, whether respondents differ across countries in preparedness to talk to interviewers about victimisation is possibly more questionable.* (dependent interrogative clause, initial position, science, A Comparative Analysis of the European Crime and Safety Survey (EU ICS) 2005). The dependent interrogative clauses in the initial position appeared most in the scientific writing.

2.1.5. NOMINAL RELATIVE CLAUSES

- *Presupposed is what several media specialists have helpfully identified as a consensual model of society.* (nominal relative clause, postposed, science, Fowler 1993: 16). An example of a nominal relative clause in the post-position. The inversion of the predicate is obligatory here.
- *What remains of the lakebed is now exposed, with its shorelines visible in the field and on satellite imagery.* (nominal relative clause, initial position, news, Geographical 2006). The most common example of a nominal relative clause in the initial position, also the thematical FSP status of the subject is typical.
- *Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.* (nominal relative clause, initial position, fiction, Orwell 1945: 3). See the following example.
- *Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.* (nominal relative clause, initial position, fiction, Orwell 1945: 3). This example and the above one represent nominal relative clauses in the initial position, which is for these structures typical. The FSP status is unclear without context. The whole stretch of the text is this: *I have little more to say. I merely repeat, remember always your duty of enmity towards Man and all his ways. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.* Considering this, the focus in these examples is on the subject complements of the phrases *(an enemy, a friend).*
- *Whoever had thoroughly grasped it would be safe from human influences.* (nominal relative clause, initial position, fiction, Orwell 1945: 8). This is another example of a nominal relative clause in the initial position. The subject here has a clear thematical status.
- *What we're seeing both in the numbers for this quarter and in the guidance for next year is that Vista is going to be a catalyst for this company, more so than maybe some of the negative buzz*

we've seen recently. (nominal relative clause, initial position, news, The Guardian 2007). Typical example of a nominal relative clause in the initial position and with thematic FSP status.

2.1.6. OTHER EXAMPLES

This section lists some examples not fitting into any of the five categories. This section is included here to present the fact, that there are number of structures on the border of clausal and semi-clausal subjects, that would probably be worth further examination.

One of the most common examples of these are the references across sentences and even larger stretches of text. The examination of these structures goes beyond the scope of this thesis, they would probably require further research.

Another place of occurrence of clausal and semi-clausal subjects are the direct questions. As these questions are not subject to this thesis, some of these examples are listed in this section.

- *But it's common! So is learning how to write and to work with numbers.* (ing-clause + infinitive, across sentence boundaries, fiction, Banks 1990: 173). Gerundial subject, predicate is referred to through *so is.* The *it* in the first sentence is anaphoric.
- *It's what's so wonderful about America. There aren't any good bleck girls in London.* (that-clause, across sentence boundaries, Amis 1999: 105). This is a that-clause with omitted *that*. This excerpt is from a direct speech, the spelling of the world *bleck* is also interesting.
- *Never to have any dealings with human beings, never to engage in trade, never to make use of money-had not these been among the earliest resolutions passed at that first triumphant Meeting after Jones was expelled?* (imperative, juxtaposition, fiction, Orwell 1945: 115). There are in fact three subjects in the form of

the infinitive, referred to by the pronoun these, which is the subject of the matrix clause.

- *But to be destroyed so completely in the full flower of its achievement, leaving no survivors - how could that be reconciled with the mercy of God?* (infinitive, ing-clause, initial position, fiction, Clarke 2000). The infinitive clause and the ing-clause are both subjects to the question, they are referred to using the pronoun that.
- *And how strange to hear a countup instead of a countdown!* (infinitive, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 1982: 273). This is an exclamatory sentence with elided *it is.*
- *It would be death to a newspaper if it read like a Social Security booklet.* (Fowler 1999: 47). This subject clause borders on a conditional clause.
- *Just because cotton is organic does not necessarily mean that it is sustainable.* (The Scientist 2006). Causative clause functions here as the subject, it is alternative to: *(The fact) that cotton is organic does not necessarily mean that it (= cotton) is sustainable.*
- *Take things easy - never move quickly - stop and think - these were the rules for extravehicular activity.* (infinitive, initial position, fiction, Clarke 1982: 67). Juxtaposed multiple subjects in the form of the imperatives.
- *Here the unloading and uplift that would follow catastrophic melting of the ice sheet might trigger earthquakes strong enough to dislodge the huge piles of sediment that have accumulated around the edges of the land.* (ing-clause, initial position, science). Here the subject ing-clause is combined with a noun in the same function. The use of the definite article indicates that this subject is a more a noun than an ing-clause.
- *Endurance's primary roles in the South Atlantic polar region involve patrolling and surveying. The former is a largely symbolic*

role - under the terms of the Atlantic Treaty, the Antarctic continent is demilitarised region - although it's always on the lookout for illegal fishing vessels. (Geographical 2006). In this example, one of the two objects of the first sentence in the form of an ing-clause becomes the subject to the second sentence through the expression *the former.* What is also interesting is the fact that there is no expression *the latter* in the following text.

- *It would be tragically ironic if, during the same decade that biological tools for understanding our species were created, major opportunities for applying them were squandered.* (Geographical 2006). Here the subject of the matrix clause is an extraposed conditional clause.
- *And therein lies the dilemma: is it right to put wildlife before people who are suffering extreme poverty and social deprivation?* (Geographical 2006). The subject of this sentence is an extraposed infinitive, very common in the news, however as direct questions are not in the scope of this thesis, this example has been placed in this section.
- *The thought is that males are always ready, says Ernest Chang.* (that-clause – subject complement, science, New Scientist 2006). In this case the transformation into subject would be possible: *It is thought that males are always ready, says Ernest Chang.*
- *And people come to a clean table, which gives them pleasure.* (Banks 1990: 251). The pronoun *which* in the second clause refers to the main clause as a whole.
- *The danger with this position is that it assumes the possibility of genuine neutrality, of some news medium being a clear undistorting window.* (subject complement that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 12). The idea, rheme in this subject complement that-clause is here further developed and reiterated by the attributive clause.

- *He was glad that he had Zenia to worry about; it took his mind away from his own fears.* (Clarke 1982: 176). Here the pronoun *it* in the second sentence refers to the fact *that he had Zenia to worry about,* in the first juxtaposed sentence which constitutes the subject of the second sentence. This one of the frequent examples of the reference to larger stretches of the preceding text.
- *It is a fundamental principle of critical linguistic <u>that there is no invariant relationship between form and meaning</u>: a linguistic form doesn't have a single, constant meaning, but rather a range of potential significance-in-context.* (subject complement that-clause, extraposed, science, Fowler 1993: 99). This is another example of subject complement that-clause, what is interesting here is the fact, that the underlined part – the rheme – was printed in italics in the original text; the author considers it very important, because he also reiterates it in a separate juxtaposed sentence, in which he further develops the idea.
- *It was well that Sasha had lowered the shields.* (that-clause, extraposed, fiction, Clarke 2000: 284). This is an example of an extraposed that-clause – the reason why it is mentioned here is the use of the adverbial *well.*
- *We'd covered 300 vertical metres, he said, nearly 1,000 feet - it seemed like a very significant achievement to me.* (Geographical 2006). This example also illustrates the reference across the sentence boundaries, these sentences are juxtaposed and the pronoun *it* in the second sentence refers to the whole first sentence. The excerpt could be transformed in this way: *Covering 300 vertical metres, nearly 1,000 feet seemed a very significant achievement to me, he said.*

III. CONCLUSION

3.1. SPECIFIC FEATURES AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

There were some specific features and problem that emerged during the work on this thesis, so they will be mentioned in this chapter.

One of these problems encountered was connected with the selection of the texts for excerption. Texts have been chosen to be varied to avoid influence of personal preference of the individual authors.

This is very easily met with the news register for two reasons – the separate articles had been written by separate authors, and they were chosen from different areas of the news – notably: News, Top Stories, World News, Business, Media and Sport.

There hasn't been noticed any individual preference to use a particular structure in the science writing, because, although there were stretches of text as large as approximately 30 per cent of the corpus written by one author.

In the fiction, there was noticed a disturbance in the form of one particular structure used by one author – namely G. Orwell in his book Animal Farm. The structure used is a subject that-clause in extraposition and a passive verb as predicate in the matrix clause. This has been analysed in the section of selected excerpted examples. Although it statistically doesn't present any significant deviation in this thesis – *Animal Farm* represents only 11 per cent of the total corpus of fiction, it might have certain influence in larger representation within the corpora.

Another interesting feature is the use anaphoric referents – mostly pronoun *it* – referring to clauses located outside the sentence. It can be seen in this example: *For the majority of people, reading the daily newspaper makes up their most substantial and significant consumption of printed discourse. For the majority, it is second only to television as a window on the world.* (Fowler, 1999: 121). The subject of the first sentence: ing-clause *reading the daily newspaper,* is also the subject of the second sentence. In both sentences the subject is situated in the

initial position. It is referred to by the pronoun *it.* This is a common example of reference to a clausal subject across sentence boundaries. This thesis hasn't dealt with this problem any further, but it is possible that this phenomenon might deserve more profound research.

When excerpting the examples from the text, it was realized that there are frequent occurrences of more that one clausal and semi-clausal subjects in one sentence. There are in fact two types of these structures:

- the first of them is a multiple subject, usually realized by identical types of structure as seen in this example: *Bouncing, being a bouncer - as a trade, as a calling - had the wrong reputation.* (Amis 1999: 48).
- the second example is a clausal or semi-clausal subject and clausal or semi-clausal subject complement: *But to say that the voice is an institutional construct, and therefore impersonal in origin, is not to say that it is not personal in style.* (infinitive, initial position, science, Fowler 1993: 39)

3.2. DISTRIBUTION OF CLAUSAL AND SEMI-CLAUSAL SUBJECTS ACROSS REGISTRES

The distribution of the clausal and semi-clausal subjects across registers has been recorded in the following chart:

Chart 3. Distribution of clausal and semi-clausal subjects across registers, absolutely and relatively per 100,000 words of text.

	Fiction	**300 509**	**Science**	**99 960**	**News**	**137 701**	**Total**	
	abs.	**relat.**	**abs.**	**relat.**	**abs.**	**relant.**	**abs.**	**relat.**
		3,01		1,00		1,38		
Initial								
infinitive	8	2,66	5	5,00	5	3,63	18	11,30
ing-clauses	23	7,65	41	41,02	42	30,50	106	79,17
that-clause	2	0,67	2	2,00	0	0,00	4	2,67
interr.cl.	3	1,00	8	8,00	7	5,08	18	14,08
nom. rel.	4	1,33	3	3,00	4	2,90	11	7,24
Extraposed								
infinitive	81	26,95	56	56,02	71	51,56	208	134,54
ing-clauses	4	1,33	2	2,00	1	0,73	7	4,06
that-clause	68	22,63	62	62,02	62	45,03	192	129,68
interr.cl.	16	5,32	16	16,01	8	5,81	40	27,14
nom. rel.	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
Postoposed								
infinitive	1	0,33	1	1,00	0	0,00	2	1,33
ing-clauses	1	0,33	1	1,00	1	0,73	3	2,06
that-clause	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00	0	0,00
interr.cl.	1	0,33	0	0,00	0	0,00	1	0,33
nom. rel.	0	0,00	2	2,00	0	0,00	2	2,00
Total	**212**	**70,55**	**199**	**199,08**	**201**	**145,97**	**612**	**415,60**

The infinitive was the most frequent structure, usually occurring in the extraposition, and mostly rhematic. The highest number of occurrences of the infinitive was found in the science register, which corresponds to the fact that the infinitive often describes usual or hypothetic action.

The second most represented structure across all the three registers were the subject that-clauses again, usually in extraposition. They are likely to carry the information weight and almost all of them, as far as it was possible to determine were the rhematic part of the sentence. The

that-clauses in the initial position also occurred scarcely, all of them were thematic.

The ing-clauses tend to the initial position, they are mostly thematic in all the three registers – most likely due to the fact that they express actions considered real and they often refer to the preceding actions, often across the sentence boundaries. Three postposed ing-clauses have also been found, all of them rhematic, but due to their scarcity in this position it is unsafe to say that this their unmarked position.

The dependent interrogative clauses have been found in all the registers either in initial position and (little more examples) in the extraposition. Their FSP structure is interesting – when in the initial position they tend to be thematic, whereas when in the extraposition they are mostly rhematic. The nominal relative clauses were often difficult to identify and distinguish from the dependent interrogative clauses. When they were found in the initial position they presented the theme and in the postposition the rhematical part. Although their small number prevents making any hypotheses about their unmarked and usual position, it seems feasible that their FSP characteristics might correspond with the tendency of the English language to place the information focus on the posterior part of the sentence.

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