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Resulting Copulas and their Complements in British and American English: A Corpus Based Study.

Bakalářská práce

Vedoucí diplomové práce: Mgr. Michaela Martinková, PhD.

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Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracoval samostatně na základě uvedených pramenů a literatury.

V Olomouci, dne 10. srpna 2011   *podpis*

I hereby declare that this bachelor thesis is completely my own work and that I used only the cited sources.

Olomouc, 10th August 2011   *signature*

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1 INTRODUCTION

My bachelor thesis focuses on resulting copulas and their complementation in both British and American English. Most attention will be paid to the adjectival complements of seven main resulting copulas, *become, come, fall, get, go, grow* and *turn.*

This thesis consists of two parts. In the first part I will provide theoretical preliminaries. I will present the basic information about copular verbs in general and about their prototypical usage. Then I will give some more details on resulting copulas according to linguistic literature.

In the practical part I will provide some information on the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which I used to download the data for my thesis. Then the method applied for the research will be described in detail.

The last part will be based on the downloaded data. Each of the seven main resulting copulas will be provided with two tables, one showing the complements found in the BNC and the second one the complements found in the COCA. The data will be analysed.

The aim of my research is to find any similarities and differences in usage of the main resulting copulas (*become, come, fall, get, go, grow* and *turn*). The criteria for my analysis are the frequency of the past participle adjectives, the frequency of comparative forms and the frequency of adjectival complements premodified by an adverb. In addition, I will study if the verb takes positive or negative complements. Moreover semantic fields of the adjectival complements will be examined. My results will be compared with the statements from linguistic literature on resulting copulas. Furthermore, any potential differences between British and American English will be pointed out.

2 THEORETICAL PRELIMINARIES

2.1 Literature

The issue of *resulting copulas* is not often discussed in linguistic literature. They are discussed only in comprehensive grammar books; no individual linguistic article devoted to the domain of the resulting copulas could be found. Thus the main sources for my work are the large and complex grammar books: *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* by Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik, *The Cambridge Grammar of the English language* by Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey K. Pullum and finally *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* by Libuše Dušková et al. However, they give most information on copulas in general, not much space is dedicated to resulting copulas.

Furthermore, the three different sources use different terminology. Quirk et al. (1985) use terms: *copular verbs* (or *linking verbs*), *copulas*, and *resulting verbs*. These terms would be expected. On the other hand, Huddleston's and Pullum (2004) prefer the term *complex-intransitives* instead of *copular verbs* and the resultative copulas are designated as *complex-intransitives with resultative PCs* (predicative complements). Dušková et al. (1994) use Czech terminology. The term for copular verbs is *sponová slovesa (linking verbs)*. The Czech term used for *resulting copulas* is *sponová slovesa změny stavu.* My suggested translation is *change of state (linking) verbs*. The other term for resulting copulas used by Dušková et al. is *slovesa typu become*, which can be translated as *become-type verbs*.

The article by Horton (1995), devoted to the copular verbs in English, does not mention the issue of resulting copular verbs at all. Thus I could use this article only for the part about the copulas in general.

2.2 Copular verb in general

2.2.1 Copular verb

The definition of the copular verb according to Leech (2006, 29) is as follows: "A main verb which, like the verb *be*, links or 'couples' a subject to a subject complement." (2006, 29) *Be* is the most common copula and its meaning is neutral; the other copular verbs are "equivalent in function to the principal copula, the verb *be*" (Quirk et al. 1985, 1171) and have an extra meaning in addition.

The copular verbs are also called *copulative* or *linking verbs* according to Leech (2006, 29).

2.2.2 Prototypical copular usage

Horton (1995, 319) points out that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the copular and non-copular construction, because the borders between them are not sharp; it is more likely a question of degree. It would be a good idea to describe a prototypical copular verb and its most typical usage.

All the linguistic literature cited in this work mentions the verb *be* as the principal copula in English, although *be* has a few non-copular usages as a main verb, meaning *to exist*, as in phrase "*God is*." It can also be used as an auxiliary verb and in "equative" constructions (*Joe is my teacher*), which differs from copular usage in two ways: first, both noun phrases (NP) are referential in "equative" constructions, while in case of copular verb the subject is non-referential, and secondly the two NPs can be reversed (*My teacher is Joe*) with almost no difference in meaning. On the other hand, the copular clauses cannot be reversed at all, as illustrated by the example (Horton 1995, 320-321):

(1)   *Joe is a teacher.*

(2)   **A teacher is Joe.*

Now the syntactic and semantic characteristics of copulas will be examined. According to Horton (1995, 320), "a copula is a verb followed by a special grammatical category, one usually called a *predicate* (which is said to

function as a subject complement). Predicates are most characteristically made up of a predicate adjective (*Joe is tall*) or a predicate noun (*Joe is a liar*)." However, as Horton argues, other elements are possible, such as a predicate prepositional phrase (*Joe's in trouble*). Also the complementation by an infinitival phrase is possible (*Joe seems to be in trouble*).

As for semantic properties, the copular verb is said to be "semantically empty" (Horton 1995, 320) without its own specific meaning. According to Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) the verb *be* is the most neutral in meaning. I propose two examples to illustrate this claim:

(3)   *John is alive.*
(4)   *John is dead.*

In both examples, the verb is the same, yet the meaning of both phrases is the exact opposite. However, some of the copulas have meanings of their own and so they can be followed only by a limited number of complements. For example the verb *blush* is followed normally by the phrases denoting a red or similar colour; the verb *burst* by adjectives *open* and *close*.

2.2.3 Copular verb complementation

The principal characteristic of all the copular verbs is that they require a complement. The complement "cannot be dropped without changing the meaning of the verb." (Quirk et al, 1985, 1771) These complements can be of a different nature. They can be formed by an adjective phrase, by a noun phrase or by an adjunct.

The adjective phrase (AP) is the most common type of the copular complementation. The majority of the copular verbs can take an AP as their complement. An AP can consist simply of one single adjective (*be proud*). However, the adjective in an AP can be pre-modified by an adverb or post-modified by other elements (*be very proud of himself*). The complete AP has in its premodifying field an adverb (grading or intensifying), or a measure phrase. In its postmodifying field it can have a prepositional phrase, a that-clause or a verb in the infinitive. (Veselovská et al. 2005, 97)

The other type of the copular complement is a noun phrase. Although this sort of complementation is not as frequent as the preceding one, it occurs with the most frequent copular verbs *be* (for the current copulas) and *become* (for the resulting copulas). As well as the AP, the NP can consist of one single noun, or the noun can be premodified and postmodified by other elements. The structure of an NP can be much more complicated than the structure of an AP. The complex nominal phrase, according to Veselovská et al. (2005, 76) is composed of a quantifier, a determinant/possessive and another quantifier in its determination field. In its modification field it can take several adjectives (central and peripheral), which can also be premodified by an adverb. The noun in NP can also be postmodified by an of-phrase, a prepositional phrase or another type of phrase or clause. An example proposed by Veselovská et al. (2005, 76) is: *all the three [very tall] white city towers with red spires*. The usage of articles in nominal copular complementation will not be discussed in this work; however, it is said to be similar as with the verb *be*. (Dušková et al. 1994, 416)

Then there is complementation by an adjunct (Quirk et al. 1985, 1174): "The principal copula that allows an adverbial as complementation is once again *be*. The complementing adverbials, termed predication adjuncts in this function, are mainly space adjuncts." Also the time adjunct and others can occur with some copulas. Also some resulting copulas can take complementation by an adjunct. Syntactically these adjuncts are often prepositional phrases:

(5)   *The children are at zoo.* (Quirk et al. 1985, 1174)

(6)   *He turned into a monster.* (Quirk et al. 1985, 1175)

(7)   *She grew into a fine woman.* (Quirk et al. 1985, 1175)

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 263) point out that the copular verb can take infinitival complements (*she looked to be happy*). There is a difference between the complementation with an infinitive and the complementation with an adjective (*she looked happy*): as suggested by Huddleston and Pullum, the signs of happiness are more visible in the second example, complemented by an adjective, than in the first one with the infinitive.

2.3 Current copulas

"Copular verbs fall into two main clauses, according to whether the subject complement has the role of *current attribute* or of a *resulting attribute*. This distinction corresponds to that between *current copulas* and *resulting copulas*." (Quirk et al. 1985, 1171-1172)

The *current copulas* are normally stative and cannot cooccur with the progressive aspect. (Quirk et al. 1985, 172) Dušková et al. consider them all basically as the synonyms of the verb *be*. (1994, 413) This group include verbs of sensory perception such as *look*, *feel*, *taste*, *smell*, *sound*, then some other verbs such as *seem*, *appear*, *prove*, *turn out*, which express the degree of certitude of the speaker. The last group of current copulas are the verbs expressing remaining in some state: *remain*, *stay*, *keep*, *go*, *continue*, *stand* and *rest*. (Dušková et al. 1994, 415)

The other big group are the *resulting copulas*. They will be discussed more closely in the next section of my work.

2.4   Resulting Copulas

Resulting copulas are the verbs that take resultative predicative complements. "They all are the verbs of *becoming*." (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 264)

They can be simply seen as the synonyms of *become*, nevertheless there are some differences between them. This is the point where all the grammars, cited in this thesis, are in accord. However, there is not an absolute consensus on which verbs are the resulting copulas. Each of the three main sources of this work present its own list of the resulting copulas, however, these lists are not absolutely identical.

2.4.1   Lists of resulting copulas

The verbs regularly used as copulas according Quirk et al. (1985, 1172) are:

become, come, end up, get, go, grow, prove, turn, turn out and *wind up.*

Then other verbs, "with severe restrictions on the words occurring in the complement," (Quirk et al. 1985, 1172) are added, together with their typical complements:

blush (bright red), fall (silent), fall down (dead), freeze (solid), run (wild), slam (shut), spring (open) and one archaic verb*, wax (eloquent).*

Huddleston and Pullum's list of the main resulting copulas is considerably shorter; there are no additional verbs. However, *prove*, which is considered to be resulting by Quirk et al., is classed as "complex-intransitive with depictive PCs", which is an equivalent to the term "current copulas," used by Quirk et al. (2004). The most frequent resulting copulas according to Huddleston and Pullum are as follows (2002, 264):

become, come, fall, get, go, grow, turn.

The other copular verbs, "found only with one or two items," (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 264) are:

blush (scarlet), break (loose), burst (open), drop (dead), freeze (solid), run (hot/ cold)), slide (open), spring (open), walk (free), wax (eloquent), wear (thin) and *work (loose).*

Only four of the verbs are the same as proposed by Quirk et al.: *blush, freeze, run* and *wax.*

Dušková et al. (1994, 416) propose also a list of resulting copular verbs. They are basically the same as proposed by Huddleston and Pullum, but one is added: *make.* The list proposed by Dušková et al. is following:

become, turn, grow, get, go, come, fall, make.

Like in the grammar books cited above, there are other verbs with a

restricted usage:

blow (open), fly (open/ into a rage), run (dry/ short), wear (thin), break (loose/ into a run).

The *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 7ᵗʰ edition* makes a short list of some of the resulting copulas as well. They are classified as synonyms of *become* and a few notes on them are added, as well as some of their most frequent complements. The verbs are as follows:

become, get, go and turn.

In addition to all of these verbs, also the main copula, *be*, can be used in a resulting meaning in some special cases.

Now I will present some notes on the specific resulting copulas according to linguistic literature. Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) states that "the resulting verbs are in the main 'verbs of *becoming*', but their meanings differ in detail." Similarities and the differences between individual resulting copular verbs, mentioned in linguistic literature, will be summarised in this part. Then, in the practical part, these statements will be tested on corpus data.

2.4.2 Become and get

The verb *become* is compared to and placed in opposition with *get.* According to Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) "*become* is a process verb, placing emphasis on the duration of the change, whereas *get* places more emphasis on the agency behind the event or on the result of the change: *Get ready!* but not **Become ready!*"

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 264) go even into more detail with their comparison of the two verbs: "*Get* differs from *become* in three respects: it belongs to relatively informal style; it is for most speakers restricted to adjectival PCs; and it more readily accommodates an agentive subject, as in *The dog tried to get free.* In particular we find *get* rather than *become* with *ready*: *Get*

ready." They also indicate that *get* is restricted to adjectival and infinitival complements.

Dušková et al. (1994, 416) are not much interested in the particularities of the verb *become*; they merely suggest that not only an adjective, but also a noun can be used with this verb.

According to OALD (2005) "*become* is more formal than *get*. Both describe changes in people's emotional or psychical state, or natural or social changes."

Thus we can expect that *become* takes as its complements adjectives and nouns (or more precisely APs and NPs), that these complements belong to a formal style and that the emphasis is placed on duration. On the other hand, *get* is expected to occur with adjectival complements of a rather informal style, with an emphasis on the agency and result of the action of a change.

2.4.3 Go and turn

"*Go* and *turn* tend to refer to changes which happen in spite of human agency, and therefore are often used as deteriorations: *go mad*; *go wild*; *go sour*; *go stale*; *turn livid*; *turn white* [of hair]; *turn sour*. *Turn* more especially seems to apply to natural changes from one state to its opposite: *turn green/brown* [of leaves]; turn fine/cold [of weather]; turn ripe <BrE>" (Quirk et al. 1985, 1174).

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 264) indicate that the verbs *go* and *turn* are mostly completed by an adjective and they make a list of the most frequent ones. *Go* is often followed by *bad, mad, wrong* and colour adjectives. *Turn* is usually complemented by *bad, nasty, sour* and colour adjectives.

However, they add: "Although we have marked *go* and *turn* as taking adjectival complements, they can also take an NP denoting a colour: *It went/turned a strange colour*" (2002, 264).

Dušková et al. make only one remark on the verb *go*: "*Go* patří jednak k skupině *remain*, např. *the remark went unnoticed* poznámka prošla bez povšimnutí, jednak k *become*, např. *I shall go mad* já se z toho zblázním" (Dušková et al. 1994, 416).

OALD (2005) states that: "*Go* is usually used for negative changes. *Go*

and *turn* are both used for changes of colour. *Turn* is also used for changes in the weather."

According to the literature, both *go* and *turn* is expected to occur with adjectives (or nouns) denoting colours and often with negative adjectives. Moreover, the combinations of *turn* with adjectives can denote a natural change, often a change of weather. It is also important to verify if the complements of *go* are really resulting, as they might be as well current.

2.4.4 Grow, come and fall

Then there is **grow**. Accordingly to Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) "*grow* is also associated with natural changes, especially with gradual changes (*grow old*, *grow tall*) and is likely to occur with comparative adjectives as in *grow cooler*, *grow more content*."

Huddleston and Pullum do not make any commentary on the verb *grow*, however, they provide a few examples of its complements (2002, 264): *long, old, tall,* adjectives denoting psychological states (*bored, impatient, tired*), and comparative APs (*You grow more beautiful each day*).

No information on the verb *grow* is provided by Dušková et al., the verb is only classed as a resulting copula.

The verb *grow* is thus anticipated to occur considerably often with a comparative form of the adjective. The combinations of *grow* with adjectives are expected to denote mainly the natural and gradual changes, or the states of mind.

The verb **come** is more deeply discussed by Dušková et al. (1994, 416). It is stated there that this verb occurs mostly with a past participle with a prefix *un*: *the seam came unstitched, the knot came untied*. Then it occurs in some idioms: *our dream has come true, the handle has come loose*. According to Dušková et al. *come to be* implicates a longer duration and a sort of randomness. Furthermore, it can be complemented with a noun in a

prepositional phrase: *to come to a halt, to come to an end*, where the verb *come* can be replaced by a respective verb: to *halt, to end.*[1]

Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) make a remark about the restrictions on complements of *come*: "*Come* is a very restricted verb, but it makes an interesting contrast with *go* in examples like *go wrong/come right*. The association of *go* with deterioration (*go rotten*, etc) is complemented by the association of *come* with improvement in *come true*, etc. These associations may be connected with the positive and negative direction (from the speaker's viewpoint) of *come* and *go* as verbs of motion."

As well as in case of the verb *grow*, Huddleston and Pullum restrict *come* to only adjectival complementation and then they propose only a set of most typical complements of *come*. (2002, 264): *loose, open, right, true* and the ordinal adjectives (*I came third*).

There is my résumé of the complements of the verb *come*: Its complements are expected to have a rather positive meaning. Also the verb will be followed by some past participles with prefix *un-*, the verb *to be* and ordinal adjectives. Among the most frequent complements there will be *loose* and *true*, which are said to be fixed phrases or idioms.

Fall can take an adjective and also a noun for its complements. According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 264), among the most typical complements there are: *asleep, ill, pregnant, prey* (to NP), *sick*, *silent* and *victim.*

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[1] Original text (Dušková et al. 1994, 416): "*Come* se vyskytuje nejčastěji s minulým participiem od sloves s předponou *un-* (roz-): *the seam came unstitched* šev se rozpáral, t*he knot came untied* uzel se rozvázal; jinak jen v některých ustálených spojeních: *our dream has come true* náš sen se uskutečnil, the *handle has come loose* držadlo se uvolnilo. *Come* se dále vyskytuje jako jediné sloveso této skupiny s *to be*: *she came to be his admirer* stala se jeho obdivovatelkou. *Come to be* implikuje delší trvání a jistou nahodilost. V této vazbě come vyjadřuje fázovost (viz 13.24). Come se dále vyskytuje v předložkové vazbě se substantivem, např. *to come to a halt* zastavit se, *to come to an end* skončit apod. (Sponová funkce *come* v těchto vazbách je zřejmá z toho, že vazbu lze nahradit příslušným slovesem: *to halt, to end.*)"

3 METHODOLOGY

In this methodological part of my thesis I will first present some information on the corpora used. Next I will introduce my list of the resulting copulas, which will be discussed later on in the practical part of this thesis. Then I will describe the method which I used for downloading the data and placing them into the tables.

3.1 Presenting the corpora

In my research, I used two corpora: the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Although the BNC is usually searched with SARA or more recent XAIRA, I preferred the on-line version located on the web of Brigham Young University. The interface was created by Mark Davies, a professor of corpus linguistics. He has also compiled the COCA and he used his own interface for both corpora. However, despite their identical appearance, each corpus uses a different tag set; some of the differences will be discussed later on in section 3.3.

The parts of speech in both corpora are tagged automatically using the CLAWS. However, the BNC uses CLAWS 5 and the COCA uses CLAWS 7. there are some differences between the tagsets. The tags for the adjective, heavily used in my research are *aj** in the BNC and *j** in the COCA. If used with the asterisk, the tag will find all of the adjectival forms. If we want to obtain some more specific results, we should use more specific tags, for example *ajc* (BNC) or *jjr* (COCA) for comparative. The tag for an adverb is *av** in the BNC and *r** in the COCA. However, the other tags used were identical: *v** for a verb and *n** for a noun. Both tagsets can be seen at the webpage of the Lancaster University.[2]

3.1.1 British National Corpus

"The British National Corpus (BNC) is a 100 million word collection of samples of written and spoken language from a wide range of sources,

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[2] CLAWS 7: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/claws7tags.html

CLAWS 5: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/claws5tags.html

designed to represent a wide cross-section of British English from the later part of the 20th century, both spoken and written."[3] The corpus was created between 1991 and 1994.

The written part of the BNC covers 90% of its volume. It includes extracts from regional and national newspapers, academic books or popular fiction.

"The spoken part (10%) consists of orthographic transcriptions of unscripted informal conversations (recorded by volunteers selected from different age, region and social classes in a demographically balanced way) and spoken language collected in different contexts, ranging from formal business or government meetings to radio shows and phone-ins."[4]

3.1.2 Corpus of Contemporary American English

"The corpus is composed of more than 425 million words in more than 175,000 texts (actually 176,389), including 20 million words each year from 1990-2011. For each year (and therefore overall, as well), the corpus is evenly divided between the five genres of spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic journals."[5] Each of these five parts includes between 85 million and 90 million words.

The spoken part of the COCA covers a bigger percentage than in the BNC – 21% (90 million words). However, unlike the BNC, the spoken texts from the COCA were not recorded for the corpus, they are transcriptions of different television and radio programs.

3.2 My list of resulting copulas

Now I propose my list of resulting copular verbs which will be discussed in the practical part of my work. Due to the immense number of the possible complements of each verb, only the main resulting copulas will be discussed in this work. The verbs with a restricted copular usage will not be presented in the practical part.

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[3] http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/corpus/index.xml

[4] http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/corpus/index.xml

[5] http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/help/texts_e.asp

For my research, I selected the verbs mentioned in linguistic literature as the main resulting copulas. However, there are a few verbs which will not be included in this work. One of them is the verb *make*, proposed by Dušková et al (1994, 416):

(8)   *A friend doesn't make a good psychiatrist.*

I am not convinced that (8) is really an example of a resulting copular usage, it is more likely a current copula. Besides, this verb is not mentioned as a resulting copula in any other source that I have studied

The other verb is *prove*. The examples of its resulting usage are not convincing enough: *prove rather useful; prove his equal.* (Quirk et al. 1985, 1172-1173) It is still the current copular usage; the change is only in the view of the speaker, but the change is not real; the denoted object or person does not change. Moreover, this verb is classed as a resulting copula only by Quirk et al., but not in the other grammar books. Thus *prove* will not be included in my work.

The main copula, the verb *be*, which can also be used in a resulting meaning, will not be discussed either, as its resulting meaning is quite an exceptional case. Besides, it would be considerably complicated, if not impossible, to find out the exact number of all of its resulting usages in the BNC and the COCA.

Now I will propose my list of resulting copulas which will be discussed later on in this thesis. In the practical part, I will study only the most frequent resulting copulas. The verbs will not be examined in their alphabetical order; they will be classified according to their similarities and differences, as presented above in subchapter 2.4. Therefore the verbs will be discussed in the following order: ***become, get, go, turn, grow, come*** and ***fall***.

3.3 Downloading data

3.3.1 Text of the query

To find the complements of resulting copulas, it was necessary to create a query using the tags. The verb in its basic form must be written in square brackets, i.e. searched as a lemma, in order to find all its word forms. For the adjective, the tag *aj** was used to search the BNC and *j** to search the COCA. Also these tags have to be written in square brackets. This finds also the synthetic comparative of the adjective, if it occurs in the corpus. Between the two tags, there is a space left. The basic query for the verb *become* thus looks like this:

BNC: [become] [aj*]

COCA: [become] [j*]

Using these queries I obtained a list of all the forms of the verb and frequencies of adjectives that can follow it. I made a list of all of the adjectives which were used as resulting complementation and appeared among the first 100 phrases. Some of the adjectives, where it was clear that it was not the case of resulting copular complement, were excluded at this point. A good example is *become prime*, where the adjective *prime* was almost exclusively a part of a nominal phrase *prime minister*.[6]

(9)   *It was the day Hitler tore into Belgium and the Netherlands, and the day that Winston Churchill* **became Prime Minister**. [BNC: HWA: W_fict_prose]

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[6] 170 out of 173 occurrences of *become prime* in the BNC were part of the phrase *become prime minister*, the other 3 were also followed by a noun. In the COCA the number of the tokens was the same, 173. However, the NP *prime minister* appears "only" 138 times. *Prime* was a part of an NP also in the rest, e.g. *prime targets*, *prime candidates*.)

However, not everything was so clear. Some of the adjectives were excluded during the research, after examining their usage in the corpora; they will be mentioned in the practical part.

To count the total number of occurrences of one phrase, it would be necessary to display the full list (which can contain several thousands of tokens and sometimes is even not possible to display completely[7]), to find all the phrases with the concrete adjective and to calculate the number of tokens of each using the calculator. This method would be very intricate and it would bring a considerable risk of miscalculations.

I faced this problem by typing a new query, which contained the adjective itself instead of the tag substituting the adjective, for example: *[become] clear*. The adjective should be written without the square brackets in order to obtain only the one exact form. The comparatives were searched using a new query (see 3.3.2). This showed all the forms of the verb and the adjective with number of their occurrences. Bellow, the total number was shown, so risk of miscalculation was eliminated.[8]

As an example I show the list of *become clear* from BNC, obtained with the query *[become] clear:*

1	BECAME CLEAR	502
2	BECOME CLEAR	201
3	BECOMES CLEAR	135
4	BECOMING CLEAR	54
	TOTAL	892

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[7] In the BNC, the full list for *[become] [aj*]* contains 5,107 phrases with 19,303 tokens in total. The full list for *[become] [j*]* in the COCA cannot be displayed due to immense quantity of possible phrases.

[8] Nevertheless, the drawback of this method is the necessity of typing a considerably great number of queries for each verb examined in my research. Together with increased time demands it brings another practical problem: the number of queries per day for one user of Mark Davies's corpora is limited to 100 and it is soon reached.

Such lists were obtained for each of the adjectives appearing among the first 100 phrases and which were not excluded as clearly non-copular or non-resulting complements.

3.3.2 More complex queries

The query presented above (3.3.1) was used to find the positive form of the adjectives. It was also necessary to find the number of occurrences of the adjective in its comparative form. To find the synthetic comparative, I typed the comparative form and the brackets. The query was identical in both corpora:

[become] clearer

Then there is analytic comparison. The adjective remains in its basic form, but it is preceded by *more*, and possibly also *less* and *as … as* (Quirk et al. 1985, 458), which are annotated in both the BNC and the COCA as adverbs. The analytical comparatives were thus found together with the other adverbs.

All of the general adverbs are tagged as *av0* in the BNC and *rr* in the COCA. To find the occurrences of the phrase *become clear*, the query looked like this:

BNC: [become] [av0] clear
COCA: [become] [rr] clear

In the BNC, 45 phrases were found, the total number of tokens was 126. Among the 126 tokens, there are 8 tokens with *more*, *less* or *as*, with total number 13. This number was added to the comparative forms. The rest, 113 tokens, was put in the table as the adjective premodified by an adverb.[9]

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[9] Another method to count all the comparative form would be to type one query for each of the adverbs used to create comparative forms of adjectives. The queries for *become important* in comparative would be *[become] more important*, *[become] less important* and *[become] as important as*. However, it would bring the problem with a limited number of queries per day as mentioned above (footnote 8).

Sometimes, the adjective is not linked to the verb, but it is a part of a noun phrase. All these cases must be subtracted in order to obtain a more precise result. The tag for a noun is *[n*]* in both corpora. Following queries were used to subtract the nominal complementation of *become* in the BNC:

[become] clear [n*]

[become] clearer [n*]

[become] [av0] clear [n*]

These three queries showed all the results where the adjective after *become* is followed by a noun. There is a big probability that the adjective is thus a part of a noun phrase. In the example case there are only four tokens for the query *[become] clear [n*]* and none for *[become] [av0] clear [n*]*. I checked the examples before subtracting them. Three times, it is the phrase *become clear favourite*. In this case, the adjective *clear* is not a part of the phrase *become clear*, but it is connected to the following word, *favourite*.

(10)   *If he impresses, there is no doubt he will **become clear favourite**.* [BNC: AKE: W_newsp_brdsht_nat_misc]

The fourth result it is the sentence:

(11)   *Staff at Middlesbrough General Hospital at first tried to induce labour on January 31 but when it **became clear Mrs Busuttil**, now of West Drayton, London, was not in labour they discontinued their efforts.* [BNC: K4W: W_newsp_other_report]

The noun following the adjective is not related to it, but it is a part of a different unit. So finally only 3 tokens were subtracted from the total number of tokens of *become clear*.

The query *[become] clear -[n*]* would automatically eliminate all of the examples, even those which should not be eliminated. It is only one token in my

example case (*become clear*), but it is more tokens in some other cases. Four phrases with total number of tokens 5 are found in the BNC using the query *[get] bored [n*]*. However, as in (12), none of the nouns found is a part of the copular complementation of *get*. They all are adverbials.

(12)   *He used to **get bored driving** around looking for locations alone and so bribed me to go with him by buying me a camera.* [BNC: FT7: W_pop_lore]

3.3.3 Putting the data into tables

After the data were downloaded, I organized them and put them into tables, so they could be compared with the other results. For each verb, I made two tables. The first one shows the results from the BNC, the other one from the COCA.

For each adjective there are four figures represented. The first one shows the number of tokens for the positive form of the adjective, simply following the verb. The second figure is the frequency of both comparative forms (synthetic and analytic) together. The third figure shows the number of the adjectives premodified by adverbs. Finally, the fourth figure shows the number of tokens in total. The order of the adjectives presented in the tables is made accordingly to the total number of tokens.

4 DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Become

Become is the most frequent resulting copula in both the BNC and the COCA. Moreover, it can be considered as the main resulting copula and all the others are basically its synonyms. The definition of its resulting copular meaning from the OED is "to come to be (something or in some state)." In this case, *become* takes a nominal or adjectival complement. However, there is also an obsolete meaning: "To come (to a place), to arrive," which indicates that *become* used to be a verb of motion, like some other resulting copulas (especially *come* and *go*).

The adjectives at the bottom of the tables, notably *big* and *close*, have a quite low number of occurrences, yet they are included in the table. The reason is that they appeared in the list of the first 100 phrases displayed with the query *[become] [aj*]*. However, they were often a part of an NP and thus a large number of tokens of these adjectives had to be excluded from the tables. Examples (13) and (14) are examples of the most frequent NPs that were excluded:

(13)   *Not surprisingly, the four soon **became close friends*** [COCA: 1998: MAG: TownCountry]

(14)   *Rugby has **become big business** and a spectator sport.* [BNC: CB2: W_pop_lore]

Nevertheless, there were also some resulting copular usages and thus I did not exclude these verbs completely:

(15)   *Despite the rift between her father and grandfather, Diana was taken to Althorp for regular visits from her home on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk and **became close** to her grandparents.* [BNC: HAF: W_misc]

(16)   *Added to this, many of the firms do not even want to **become big**; they started small and like it that way.* [BNC: B7F: W_non_ac_nat_science]

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Some of the adjectives appearing in the first 100 were excluded completely: *become chief, assistant, prime*, as they were always a part of an NP.

(17)   *She joined GM of Canada's legal staff in 1975 and **became assistant counsel** in 1979*. [COCA: 1999: NEWS: USAToday]

There is no restriction on the form of the AP following the verb *become*: although the most adjectives occur mainly in their positive forms, the comparatives and the adjectives premodified by an adverb are also quite frequent, if compared with *come, go* and *turn*. Nevertheless, some of the complements are more frequent in the comparative: *important, popular, common, dependent, close, large* and *big*, which appear in both tables, plus *large* (BNC) and *strong* and *good* (COCA). In comparison with the rest of the copulas analysed in this thesis, both analytic and synthetic comparative forms are quite frequent and possible for the majority of the complementing adjectives. Only a few complements of *become* represented in my tables has no token in comparative form in neither corpus: *pregnant, extinct, impossible* and *infected*. Besides, these adjectives normally do not occur in comparative forms.

Furthermore, there are several different types of adjectives. There are the adjectives of simple form, like *clear, aware* or *ill*. Plus there are the past participle adjectives: *involved, accustomed, interested* and others – see tables 1 and 2. Among the 50 adjectives represented in table 1 (BNC) there are 11 past participle adjectives. In table 2 (COCA) there are 7 past participle adjectives among the 51 represented in the table.

In comparison with the adjectival complements of the verb *get*, it can be stated that the complements of *become* are in average longer. Most of them consist of three or four syllables (see tables 1 and 2), while the majority of the adjectives after *get* consists of one or two syllables (tables 3 and 4). This may be the reason why *become* tends to be marked as more formal than *get* (Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 264), OALD – see 2.4.2). Nevertheless, none of the complements presented in the tables is labelled as formal in dictionaries.

Apart from the adjective *more*, used to form the analytic comparative, the most frequent adverb with *become* is *increasingly*. Among the first 100 phrases in the BNC, *increasingly* appeared 27 times (*more* appeared 53 times, *very* 7 times). Other adverbs, *so*, *less*, *fully*, *seriously*, *acutely*, *too*, have the number of occurrences 5 or less. Comparison with the other resulting copulas reveals an interesting point: this adverb occurs almost exclusively with *become*. To verify this hypothesis I typed query *[v*] increasingly [aj*]*, which shows all of the copulas followed by *increasingly* plus an adjective. In the list of the first 100 results the verb *become* appeared 71 times in the BNC. The other verbs were the current copulas: *to be* (27 times), *look* and *seem* (each once). The high frequency of this adverb in the copular complementation of *become* supports the claim by Quirk et al. (1985, 1174) that the verb *become* is connected to some graduality (see 2.4.2). In total, *increasingly* between *become* and an adjective appears 1,181 times in the BNC. To compare, the adverb *suddenly* appeared after become (query *[become] suddenly [aj*]*) only 21 times in the BNC.

The meaning of the adjectival complements of *become* is not much restricted as well. The majority of the adjectives have more or less a neutral meaning (*clear, apparent, involved*), however, there are some adjectives of positive (*independent, friendly*) and negative (*ill, extinct, difficult*) meaning. Due to large variety of the complements, it is not possible to classify them into groups on the basis of their meanings.

There is not any striking difference between the tokens from both corpora. Among the ten most frequent complements of *become*, there are eight that are identical, although their order is slightly different. 36 tokens out of 50 in the BNC and 51 in the COCA were identical. The percentage of the identical complement is higher in the first half of the table where there are the words of higher frequency.

Only the adjective *serious* seems to be in British English preferred with the verb *become*, while it occurs more often with *get* in American English. Although the phrase *get serious* (39 tokens) did not appear in the list of the first

100 tokens in the BNC, it is only a little bit less frequent than *become serious* (44 tokens), which appeared among the first 100 tokens. However, in the COCA, the difference is considerably greater: *become serious* 118 tokens, *get serious* 810 tokens. I displayed the result sentences to find any difference in the meaning of these two phrases. However, their usage is very similar; they both can be used in connection to some persons or situations. No clear preference of any type of subject could be noticed.

(18)   *Joachim **became serious** about photography in 1977 and today is one of the top photo-personalities in Germany.* [COCA: 2006: ACAD: PSAJournal]

(19)   *And so, it was not surprising that as Lances drug **problem became serious**, Hillis turned to his friend, Steve Tauzer, for help.* [COCA: 2004: SPOK: CBS_48Hours]

(20)   *You can tell when the politicians are **getting serious** about an issue: they stop taking cheap shots at one another and suddenly become pragmatic.* [COCA: 2007: MAG: TIME]

(21)   *They weren't adults. When their **trouble got** serious, they ran.* [COCA: 1991: FIC: Bk:FiremansFair]

Table 1: Complements of *become* in the BNC

BNC	[become] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	clear	864	117	113	1094
2.	aware	720	71	129	920
3.	apparent	678	34	75	787
4.	involved	601	35	105	741
5.	available	572	4	57	633
6.	important	123	131	187	441
7.	difficult	127	82	154	363
8.	popular	106	49	149	304
9.	obvious	181	20	48	249
10.	evident	189	13	33	235
11.	familiar	170	17	44	231
12.	ill	148	3	78	229
13.	pregnant	224	0	2	226

14.	interested	155	21	46	222
15.	possible	199	2	11	212
16.	common	67	73	66	206
17.	necessary	183	3	8	194
18.	accustomed	160	2	10	172
19.	independent	105	12	35	152
20.	effective	96	28	16	140
21.	dependent	56	17	60	133
22.	concerned	64	17	51	132
23.	impossible	104	0	27	131
24.	large	19	55	55	129
25.	extinct	119	0	4	123
26.	famous	104	3	11	118
27.	used to	92	2	16	110
28.	fashionable	83	2	24	109
29.	conscious	65	10	32	107
30.	convinced	91	0	7	98
31.	active	62	12	24	98
32.	confused	72	1	22	95
33.	angry	48	2	31	81
34.	serious	43	17	19	79
35.	infected	73	0	2	75
36.	redundant	68	0	5	73
37.	operational	64	0	9	73
38.	responsible	56	8	8	72
39.	obsessed	59	10	0	69
40.	lost	59	1	7	67
41.	commonplace	56	4	6	66
42.	friendly	41	3	21	65
43.	worried	37	4	21	62
44.	payable	59	0	0	59
45.	suspicious	55	0	2	57
46.	big	9	24	22	55
47.	unemployed	51	0	0	51
48.	obsolete	46	0	3	49
49.	close	21	1	25	47
50.	permanent	29	1	0	30

Table 2: Complements of *become* in the COCA

COCA	[become] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	clear	3290	342	488	4120
2.	aware	2118	307	264	2689
3.	involved	1795	185	432	2412
4.	apparent	1624	130	212	1966
5.	available	1380	36	157	1573
6.	important	376	543	620	1539
7.	popular	570	176	541	1287
8.	difficult	310	346	435	1091
9.	familiar	699	115	173	987
10.	common	334	354	252	940
11.	pregnant	891	0	2	893
12.	interested	637	94	138	869
13.	evident	649	58	116	823
14.	obvious	612	58	129	799
15.	ill	552	0	232	784
16.	active	373	145	184	702
17.	famous	577	16	98	691
18.	convinced	569	17	40	626
19.	accustomed	535	16	59	610
20.	good	83	386	121	590
21.	concerned	309	68	166	543
22.	public	460	9	35	504
23.	strong	94	301	105	500
24.	dependent	244	81	171	496
25.	necessary	438	14	34	486
26.	infected	469	0	11	480
27.	possible	418	10	20	448
28.	visible	298	70	77	445
29.	commonplace	322	53	65	440
30.	obsessed	360	5	63	428
31.	impossible	300	0	114	414
32.	independent	251	59	64	374
33.	comfortable	177	143	41	361
34.	extinct	331	0	17	348
35.	angry	259	14	74	347
36.	rich	238	54	55	347

37.	successful	176	38	133	347
38.	effective	175	115	36	326
39.	obsolete	264	1	32	297
40.	real	193	33	57	283
41.	eligible	274	0	4	278
42.	synonymous	233	0	38	271
43.	close	128	2	135	265
44.	sick	212	0	51	263
45.	critical	156	52	50	258
46.	big	48	109	96	253
47.	suspicious	163	6	23	192
48.	proficient	111	36	30	177
49.	central	130	14	31	175
50.	invisible	141	0	23	164
51.	permanent	115	6	4	125

4.2 Get

Unlike *become*, the verb *get* has a larger variety of meanings. Therefore it makes finding its resulting copular complementation more difficult. The adjectives at the bottom of the tables are often a part of an NP which is not copular complementation. All of these tokens had to be excluded from analysis.

(22)   *It's only on Christmas or birthdays that I **get new clothes***. [COCA: 2004: NEWS: NewYorkTimes]

The adjective *different* was excluded altogether as it was found only as a part of an NP in the BNC. In the COCA it did not appear among the first 100 tokens.

Many of the adjectives are past participles. In table 3 (BNC), 16 out of 43 adjectives are past participles (compare with *become*: 11/50). In table 4 (COCA), 15 out of 40 adjectives are past participles (*become*: 7/51). Their percentage is noticeably higher than with any other verb analysed in my work.

In both corpora, the adjectives *old, good, big, bad, strong* and *small* are more frequent in their comparative forms in complementation of *get*. In the

BNC there is one more adjective that is more frequent in comparative: *long*. But the difference is not as striking as in case of the complements cited above. Moreover, these adjectives, when used in their positive form, are often a part of an NP which is not copular complementation. As illustration, the phrase *get bad* has 53 tokens in the BNC. However, 31 of them had to be excluded as they are not copular complementation of *get*, as in (23):

(23)   *Would that passionless person mind if she **got bad notices**?* [BNC: J19: W_fict_prose]

On the other hand, *get worse* appears 559 times in the BNC and only 2 times it is a part of an NP. Both examples (24) and (25) were excluded.

(24)   *Then the kids will **get worse problems** and go bad sure as sure, and they'll have to be rehoused and in the end they'll cost ten times as much.* [BNC: H8M: W_fict_prose]

(25)   *Let let through the door. You **got worse things**.* [BNC: KBE: S_conv]

The comparatives appearing as resulting copular complementation of *get* are in an overwhelming majority the synthetic comparatives, not the analytical ones. The only adjectives that appear quite frequently in the analytical comparative are *involved* (both corpora) and *serious* (COCA). Nevertheless, their frequency is not as high as the frequency of the synthetic comparative forms. The analytic comparative is not as frequent as with the verb *become*. However, this fact is quite understandable; the majority of complements of *get* are the adjectives of one or two syllables, which normally take synthetic comparative form.

Similarly to *become*, also the complements of *get* have quite a large variety of meanings. Some of them can be considered as positive (*married, pregnant, rich*), some as negative (*lost, drunk, bored*) and some as neutral (*used to, involved, ready*). No clear preference can be deduced from my sample.

In the BNC the phrase *get well* appeared among the first 100 tokens of [get] [aj*]. The number of tokens found with an updated query [get] well.[aj*] was 60, with [get] well.[av*] the number of tokens was 155. However, according the OED, *well* in this phrase is an adjective and the meaning is "to recover from an illness." This meaning was found for both queries.

(26)   *Have a very good weekend everyone, Douglas, have a, like I said, a good week, **get well** soon, come back and see us soon.* [BNC: HM4: S_brdcast_discussn]

(27)   *The doctor will **get well** again soon.* [BNC: FSC: W_fict_prose]

Example (26) was found by the query *[get] well.[aj*]* and example (27) by *[get] well.[av*].* Nevertheless, in some cases the word *well* is clearly an adverb (as in (28)); 50 such cases were excluded. The final number is thus 165.

(28)   *Dirty tricks. Beyond the law. I hope you **get well paid** for it.* [BNC: CE5: W_fict_prose]

There is not any striking difference between the results from both corpora. Only the adjective *serious*, which is preferred with *get* in American English and in the BNC it has a similar number of occurrences with both *get* and *become*. This fact is mentioned above in the section 4.1.

Table 3: Complements of *get* in the BNC

BNC	[get] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	married	1158	0	1	1159
2.	used (to)	886	5	22	913
3.	involved	768	19	63	850
4.	good	49	646	43	738
5.	bad	22	557	62	641
6.	ready	488	0	0	488
7.	lost	449	0	22	471
8.	old	120	312	38	470
9.	stuck	325	0	14	339

10.	drunk	244	1	46	291
11.	tired	187	4	69	260
12.	bored	212	0	37	249
13.	big	27	154	51	232
14.	excited	102	4	95	201
15.	angry	137	0	53	190
16.	cold	112	34	41	187
17.	pregnant	176	0	1	177
18.	hot	73	16	84	173
19.	well	165	0	2	167
20.	dark	148	10	8	166
21.	wet	126	8	22	156
22.	upset	108	0	48	156
23.	tough	94	27	10	131
24.	worried	79	1	49	129
25.	hurt	120	0	2	122
26.	confused	84	1	31	116
27.	sick	87	0	21	108
28.	rich	64	30	9	103
29.	right	68	1	29	98
30.	warm	55	24	15	94
31.	engaged	91	0	1	92
32.	long	29	36	27	92
33.	small	2	78	9	89
34.	strong	4	64	9	77
35.	depressed	48	1	22	71
36.	fit	52	12	6	70
37.	free	64	0	0	64
38.	clear	54	4	6	64
39.	little	44	0	19	63
40.	mad	46	5	8	59
41.	set	38	0	2	40
42.	black	25	2	5	32
43.	nice	15	1	2	18

Table 4: Complements of *get* in the COCA

COCA	[get] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	married	7382	0	6	7388
2.	good	404	5479	318	6201
3.	involved	5473	131	356	5960
4.	ready	5736	2	8	5746
5.	bad	173	3672	419	4264
6.	used (to)	3780	6	114	3900
7.	old	1053	2399	232	3684
8.	sick	2834	0	178	3012
9.	lost	2895	3	73	2971
10.	hurt	2159	2	46	2207
11.	tired	1965	9	203	2177
12.	pregnant	1824	1	3	1828
13.	stuck	1619	0	15	1634
14.	big	300	995	334	1629
15.	angry	1344	6	245	1595
16.	mad	1379	1	196	1576
17.	killed	1435	0	10	1445
18.	rich	1043	271	56	1370
19.	excited	885	12	410	1307
20.	drunk	1121	2	119	1242
21.	upset	847	13	297	1157
22.	hot	587	178	309	1074
23.	serious	810	49	105	964
24.	real	884	4	36	924
25.	bored	777	0	54	831
26.	cold	525	150	148	823
27.	lucky	728	0	73	801
28.	tough	730	0	70	800
29.	nervous	630	17	132	779
30.	divorced	720	0	1	721
31.	wet	590	19	36	645
32.	scared	543	5	89	637
33.	comfortable	456	74	92	622
34.	busy	459	1	96	556
35.	frustrated	413	8	134	555
36.	small	39	452	44	535

37.	free	367	0	20	387
38.	strong	68	113	49	230
39.	great	51	26	149	226
40.	new	55	0	0	55

4.3 Go

Go is mostly used as a verb of motion. However, the OED gives a list of 48 meanings of this verb. The meaning in which this work is interested is: "to pass into a certain condition. Chiefly implying deterioration." (OED) Not all of the copular usages of *go* are resulting. The adjectives like *unnoticed* or *unheeded* were excluded, as in this case the verb *go* works as a current copula.

Among the resulting copular complements, only one adjective was past participle, *bust*.

Adjectives complementing *go* occur most frequently in their positive forms. The comparatives are very sporadic. The majority of adjectives do not appear in comparative form when they are used as resulting copular complementation of *go*.

Although the most frequent complement, *wrong*, is in the OED classified as an adverb, in both corpora it was tagged as an adjective, so I included it into my work. The number of its occurrences is considerably higher than any other, in the BNC it occurs four times more often than the second most frequent complement, *mad*. *Wrong* is cited by Huddleston and Pullum among the most typical complements of *go* (see 2.4.3), but it is not mentioned in the other sources. Due to its immense number of occurrences, *go wrong* can be perceived as a fixed phrase.

According to their meaning, the complements of *go* can be classified into several groups. The first group are the adjectives of negative meaning. Some of them denote physical deterioration of a body: *blind, deaf* and *bald*. In the examples from both corpora, these phrases are most frequently connected to human beings. On the other hand, *go dead* is not related to human death, but it

is used about telephones or some other means of electronic communication:

(29) *Dr. Suttle heard a click, and then the **line went dead**.* [COCA: 2002: FIC: Analog]

And there are some other adjectives of negative meaning: *go bust, go bankrupt, go missing, go cold, go sour* and *go bad*.

The other big group of complements of *go* are the adjectives denoting states of mind. However, all of them have a rather negative meaning: *mad, wild, crazy, berserk* or *insane*. They are used also metaphorically, they do not mean that the person actually became mentally ill; they are used to denote some strong emotions:

(30) *Paul Forber scored from close range three minutes from the end to give Saints a one-point lead and the crowd, such as it was, **went wild**.* [BNC: A1N: W_newsp_brdsht_nat_sports]

(31) *When he was angry like this he **went berserk**, she knew.* [BNC: HJH: W_fict_prose]

The last group of complements are colour terms: *red, green, grey, brown, pink, scarlet, blank,* plus *pale* and *dark*, which are also connected to colour. Nevertheless they are usually not used to describe the real change of colour, but rather as metaphors. The majority of them can be included in the group of adjectives with negative meaning or the group of adjectives expressing states of mind.

Go red, go white, *go blank* and *go pale* are often used about human face or skin. The change of colour is metaphorically used for the change of someone's state of mind. These complements denote strong emotions that have an effect on person's skin and so they are very close to the complements like *mad* or *wild*.

(32) *She looked very angry, and her face **went white**.* [BNC: H7V: W_fict_prose]

The meaning of the other combinations of *go* with adjectives of colour can be perceived as negative: *go grey* is often used with human hair. It is metaphorically used in the meaning of "growing old":

(33)   ***Going grey** and growing old are indeed processes rather than activities, irreversible and permanent.* [BNC: CBR: W_ac_soc_science]

The other complements often have more meanings, not all of them are negative. In accordance with the example phrases from the corpora, *go brown* often means "to wither" (34), "to become dirty" (35) or "to get tanned" (36); *go green* can mean "to become ecologic" (37) or "to become mouldy" (38):

(34)   *Autumn lay across the land. Oak leaves were **going brown**, the last cut of hay was in, and the farm implement dealer displayed snowmobiles.* [COCA: 2003: FIC: FantasySciFi]

(35)   *It's **gone brown** from the dust.* [BNC: F9T W_ac_polit_law_edu]

(36)   *Skimping on the sun filter will not help you to brown any quicker but can leave you sore and damaged. But remember, you can only **go brown** if your skin has the ability to do so.* [BNC: CDR W_misc]

(37)   *They are one of the most aggressive firms when it comes to climate control and **going green**, if you will.* [COCA: 2007: SPOK: PBS_Newshour]

(38)   *Eventually, as much for hygienic reasons as out of a desire to conform with Moscow's example of de-Stalinization, the Czechs were forced to give up the battle to keep Gottwald's corpse from **going green** and bury him instead.* [BNC: CCK: W_non_ac_polit_law_edu]

However, one thing in common is that the adjectives of colour are often used in their figurative meaning and do not denote the actual change of colour.

Now, I will discuss some differences between the two corpora. According to my research, British English prefers the verb *get* in connection to the complement *mad*. *Get mad* appears 46 times and *go mad* appears 384 times in

the BNC (the occurrences with the adverb are not included in these figures). On the other hand, American English prefers *get mad* to *go mad.* In the COCA *get mad* was found 1,379 times and *go mad* 603 times, which is less than a half. However, there is a difference in meaning of *mad* in British and American English. In British English it is a synonym of *crazy* or *insane.* Both these complements occur uniquely with *go* in the BNC and in the COCA their frequency with *get* is considerably lower than their frequency with *go* (*go crazy* 1,719 tokens, *get crazy* 173 tokens; *go insane* 209 tokens, *get insane* 8 tokens). In American English the meaning of *mad* can be also synonymous to *angry*, which can appear with *get* only. No token of *go angry* was found either in the COCA or BNC.

And there is one striking difference: *online* (or *on-line*), that is the fifth most frequent complement of *go* in the COCA, appears only 2 times in the BNC. However, the reason is quite simple: the creation of the COCA has not stopped since 1990, while the BNC was created between 1990 and 1994; while the immense development and commercial use of the Internet is dated in the second half of 1990's.

Table 5: Complements of *go* in the BNC

BNC	[go] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	wrong	1571	0	153	1724
2.	mad	384	0	48	432
3.	bust	192	0	1	193
4.	public	183	0	1	184
5.	bankrupt	149	0	0	149
6.	crazy	115	0	13	128
7.	wild	113	5	5	123
8.	cold	101	0	9	110
9.	berserk	89	0	0	89
10.	red	80	0	3	83
11.	free	78	1	0	79
12.	white	75	0	0	75
13.	quiet	69	4	1	74
14.	dead	67	0	0	67
15.	soft	59	0	4	63

16.	live	62	0	0	62
17.	blind	58	0	1	59
18.	green	52	0	1	53
19.	easy	50	0	1	51
20.	dry	39	1	10	50
21.	bad	40	5	1	46
22.	private	43	0	0	43
23.	blank	42	0	0	42
24.	short	34	1	3	38
25.	grey	37	0	0	37
26.	pale	36	0	1	37
27.	dark	30	2	5	37
28.	black	27	2	6	35
29.	deaf	34	0	0	34
30.	weak	23	10	1	34
31.	sour	32	0	1	33
32.	brown	26	0	3	29
33.	bald	28	0	0	28
34.	pink	27	0	0	27
35.	wide	19	5	3	27
36.	rigid	22	0	0	22
37.	scarlet	17	0	0	17

Table 6: Complements of *go* in the COCA

COCA	[go] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	wrong	5422	0	468	5890
2.	public	1964	1	9	1974
3.	crazy	1680	3	69	1752
4.	bad	909	11	43	963
5.	online/on-line	851	0	16	867
6.	wild	831	1	20	852
7.	bankrupt	830	0	4	834
8.	missing	678	0	1	679
9.	mad	603	0	49	652
10.	live	487	0	0	487
11.	dead	455	0	9	464
12.	broke	442	0	5	447
13.	strong	408	8	10	426

14.	free	410	0	8	418
15.	silent	326	0	35	361
16.	blind	327	0	19	346
17.	blank	308	0	19	327
18.	bust	306	0	3	309
19.	wide	285	8	13	306
20.	cold	290	2	13	305
21.	dry	258	0	22	280
22.	sour	269	0	7	276
23.	quiet	208	0	48	256
24.	numb	229	0	23	252
25.	black	230	0	19	249
26.	extinct	240	0	4	244
27.	soft	212	8	14	234
28.	soft	212	8	14	234
29.	green	227	0	3	230
30.	insane	207	0	22	229
31.	haywire	215	0	8	223
32.	ballistic	212	0	10	222
33.	white	168	0	28	196
34.	negative	163	0	14	177
35.	nuclear	171	0	1	172
36.	big	94	20	18	132

4.4 Turn

Turn is another verb that is primarily a verb of motion. Of the 44,056 occurrences of *turn* in the BNC, the verb is followed by an adjective only 936 times. As a resulting copula followed by an adjective, the verb has the meaning of: "to change so as to be, to become." (OED)

The adjectives appear almost exclusively in their positive forms. The number of their occurrences in the comparative is considerably low. Premodification by an adverb is also quite scarce.

Moreover, in my sample of the complementation of *turn*, there are no past participle adjectives.

The complements of *turn* are quite similar to those of *go*. There are two main groups of complementing adjectives: adjectives with a negative meaning and adjectives of colours. The adjectives of psychical states are not present in either of the tables.

The meaning of the adjectives *sour, nasty, cold, ugly, bad, chilly, bitter* or *sick* is normally perceived as negative or deteriorative. They are very similar to the negative complements of *go*. However, they are not identical. Adjectives *blind*, *deaf* and *bald*, which were used with *go*, do not occur as copular complementation of *turn* in the BNC and they are very rare in the COCA (*turn blind* – 3 tokens, turn deaf – 4 tokens, turn bald – no token). Some of the adjectives express a notion of ugliness: *turn ugly, turn nasty*. Then there are others that denote some bad behaviour (rather than a state of mind as *go*): *violent*, *vicious*, *hostile*.

The adjectives of colour are very often used as copular complementation of *turn*. Their usage is very similar to colour adjectives with the verb *go*. Similarly to colour adjectives in complementation of *go*, *turn red, turn white, turn pale* or *turn scarlet* are often connected to human skin and they often metaphorically express a change of one's mood rather than the actual change of colour.

(39)   *I **turned red** with embarrassment.* [BNC: CHE: W_biography]

(40)   *Zar Palemon thundered, everyone **turned pale**, and the gold of his voice stung my ear drums.* [COCA: 2007: ACAD: ContempFic]

In other examples, the change of colour is without any doubts real. However, the main idea of the sentences is often more complex than the simple changing of colour. *Turn grey* is equally often used with hair in the meaning of "becoming old" and *turn brown* is often used with plants in meaning of "to wither":

(41)   *What I miss about living in the country is the morbid beauty of the autumns. In the city the leaves just **turn brown** and scatter.* [COCA: 2002: FIC: Esquire]

No big difference between the data from the BNC and COCA can be noticed. Only the adjective *professional,* which is one of the most frequent complement of *turn* in the BNC, is found much less often as a complement of *turn* in the COCA. However, there is also its shortened form, *pro,* in the COCA, so in the end the difference is not as big.

Table 7: Complements of *turn* in the BNC

BNC	[turn] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	professional	55	0	0	55
2.	red	51	1	3	55
3.	sour	48	0	7	55
4.	white	51	0	3	54
5.	cold	34	2	11	47
6.	pale	31	1	13	45
7.	green	39	0	2	41
8.	nasty	35	0	6	41
9.	blue	39	0	1	40
10.	black	37	0	2	39
11.	brown	27	0	0	27
12.	yellow	24	0	2	26
13.	pink	23	0	1	24
14.	grey	19	0	0	19
15.	scarlet	14	0	0	14
16.	violent	13	0	0	13
17.	bad	9	0	3	12
18.	ugly	11	0	0	11
19.	golden	10	0	0	10
20.	low	8	0	0	8
21.	chilly	8	0	0	8
22.	purple	8	0	0	8
23.	hot	6	0	2	8
24.	loose	7	0	0	7
25.	bitter	6	0	0	6
26.	serious	6	0	0	6
27.	vicious	6	0	0	6
28.	orange	5	0	0	5

29.	sick	4	0	0	4
30.	dull	3	0	0	3
31.	gay	3	0	0	3
32.	negative	3	0	0	3
33.	hostile	2	0	0	2
34.	silent	2	0	0	2
35.	fine	2	0	0	2
36.	political	1	0	1	2

Table 8: Complements of *turn* in the COCA

COCA	[turn] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	red	599	54	36	689
2.	white	318	3	23	344
3.	green	319	3	6	328
4.	black	259	1	12	272
5.	blue	234	2	7	243
6.	brown	227	0	4	231
7.	cold	189	23	16	228
8.	sour	219	1	7	227
9.	pink	206	3	6	215
10.	gray	185	0	4	189
11.	violent	178	0	9	187
12.	yellow	164	0	7	171
13.	loose	170	0	0	170
14.	serious	144	13	9	166
15.	dark	127	18	9	154
16.	golden	138	0	3	141
17.	ugly	126	0	15	141
18.	pale	119	2	10	131
19.	bad	85	13	12	110
20.	purple	98	0	6	104
21.	professional	85	0	0	85
22.	deadly	77	1	1	79
23.	nasty	58	0	15	73
24.	hot	54	1	13	68
25.	orange	61	0	1	62
26.	negative	39	0	9	48
27.	cool	35	10	3	48

28.	pro	47	0	0	47
29.	warm	34	12	1	47
30.	opaque	44	0	1	45
31.	direct	43	0	0	43
32.	soft	38	2	3	43
33.	grim	27	0	2	29
34.	silent	24	0	5	29
35.	chilly	25	0	3	28
36.	tragic	21	0	0	21

4.5 Grow

The non-copular meaning of the verb *grow* according to the OED is: "To increase gradually in size by natural development." As seen in the tables, this meaning heavily influences also its copular meaning. Many of the complements express the idea of becoming bigger, or an increase in some quality.

Concerning the problems with putting the adjectives into the table, it would be pertinent to mention the phrase *grow wild*. It seems to be similar to *go wild*, which obviously is a resulting copula. Nevertheless, when looking at the examples of usage, it becomes clear that it is not a copular usage at all. The verb is used in its primary meaning:

(42)   *They make that from sugar cane, which often **grows wild** here.* [BNC: CHG: W_fict_prose]

Past participle adjectives can appear in copular complementation of *grow*, however, they are not strikingly frequent as with *get*.

There are several words that are preferred in their comparative forms. The most current are: *old, big, long, strong, large* and *wide*. For others see tables 9 and 10 bellow. In both the BNC and COCA, o*ld* is the most frequent adjective in positive and also in comparative.

The premodification of the adjectival complement by an adverb is possible and more frequent than in case of *go* or *turn*.

The most of the complements of *grow* are neutral in their meaning. Among the 41 tokens from the BNC, 7 complements are adjectives of size or spatial adjectives: *tall, big, long, thick, large, wide* and *great*. In the COCA the number of these adjectives in the complementation of *grow* is only four: *wide, large, tall* and *big*. However, there also are some combinations of *grow* and adjectives, which denote a decrease in size: *short, thin* and *small* in the BNC and *small* in the COCA.

The other frequent group of complements are the adjectives describing a state of mind. It is the case of *tired, bored, impatient, restless, angry* and *anxious*. The presence of these adjectives is perfectly in accordance with the statement by Huddleston and Pullum (see 2.4.4).

Quite often there are pairs of adjectives with opposite meanings. One of them is *quiet* and *loud* (strongly preferred in the comparative form – *louder*). While *quiet* tends to be connected with living beings, the usage of *louder* is not restricted in this way. The other pairs are *strong/ weak; big, large/ small; hot, warm/ cold*.

The results from both corpora are quite similar, without any striking difference.

Table 9: Complements of *grow* in the BNC

BNC	[grow] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	old	111	194	3	308
2.	strong	13	75	8	96
3.	large	8	56	21	85
4.	big	25	35	17	77
5.	loud	1	67	4	72
6.	long	14	37	9	60
7.	tall	29	10	18	57
8.	tired	50	0	5	55
9.	hot	27	9	5	41
10.	dark	26	11	1	38
11.	cold	19	15	3	37
12.	bad	1	31	3	35
13.	rich	19	7	3	29

14.	warm	18	10	1	29
15.	small	4	22	1	27
16.	fond	4	16	7	27
17.	accustomed	23	0	1	24
18.	bored	22	0	1	23
19.	wide	7	12	3	22
20.	used to	20	1	0	21
21.	serious	18	0	3	21
22.	angry	14	0	7	21
23.	impatient	18	0	1	19
24.	thick	9	8	2	19
25.	heavy	6	9	4	19
26.	restless	16	0	0	16
27.	pale	9	6	1	16
28.	good	2	13	1	16
29.	short	5	8	2	15
30.	bold	4	10	1	15
31.	weary	13	0	1	14
32.	quiet	9	0	2	11
33.	great	2	4	5	11
34.	anxious	9	1	0	10
35.	thin	5	3	0	8
36.	bright	3	5	0	8
37.	faint	0	8	0	8
38.	steep	0	5	0	5
39.	new	3	0	1	4

Table 10: Complements of *grow* in the COCA

COCA	[grow] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	old	763	988	44	1795
2.	large	114	454	143	711
3.	strong	103	503	29	635
4.	loud	22	575	12	609
5.	accustomed	466	7	29	502
6.	tired	461	1	26	488
7.	big	75	221	125	421
8.	dark	169	130	26	325
9.	bad	0	269	3	272

10.	weary	250	1	20	271
11.	tall	85	135	46	266
12.	wide	134	100	13	247
13.	cold	150	72	24	246
14.	quiet	163	29	33	225
15.	small	31	186	5	222
16.	impatient	193	4	13	210
17.	heavy	103	72	18	193
18.	hot	107	47	19	173
19.	rich	117	38	15	170
20.	fond	73	49	46	168
21.	weak	50	84	19	153
22.	bored	139	0	4	143
23.	warm	84	47	10	141
24.	angry	85	23	19	127
25.	concerned	75	19	31	125
26.	bright	22	98	3	123
27.	restless	107	2	12	121
28.	silent	101	4	10	115
29.	faint	43	63	2	108
30.	serious	56	25	14	95
31.	suspicious	75	6	12	93
32.	bold	11	55	6	72
33.	red	39	1	5	45

4.6 Come

Come is also originally a verb of motion. The principal meaning of *come* is according to the OED "to move towards, approach".

The verb is very often used in this meaning, thus many of the tokens were excluded from my research. There are two examples of this usage. In the first one (43), the adjective is used in function of an adverb. In the second one (44), the adjective *full*, that appeared 50 times with come in the BNC, was 46 times a part of the NP *full circle*.

(43)   S*adie! Sadie!* **Come quick***, if you want to see this hen lay an egg.*
[COCA: 1993: MAG: AmHeritage]

(44)   *She **came full circle** around the house, and opened a door to find*
        herself looking up again at the dangling corpse statue. [BNC: ALJ:
        W_fict_prose]

In many of its copular uses, *come* was a current copula. One of the
frequent complements is *complete*:

(45)   *This portable, easy-to-use device **comes complete** with tubing, fitting,*
        soft carrying case and batteries. [COCA: 2003: ACAD: MechanicalEng]

These are just some examples of the adjectives which were excluded
from my research.

In the complementation of *come* as a resulting copula, comparatives
occur very scarcely. The majority of complements of *come* is simply in the
positive form. Also the adverbs premodifying the adjectives are rare.

The adjectives of past participle form often have the suffix *un-.* In the
BNC is it 2 out of 3, in the COCA it is 4 out of 5. This proves to some extent the
statement by Dušková et al. (1994, 416) – see 2.4.4. However, neither of the
two examples presented there could be found in the BNC. Their frequency in
the COCA was quite low: *come unstitched* was found once only and *come
untied* nine times in total.

Concerning the meaning of the complements, the verb *come* is quite
restricted. Among the first 100 phrases displayed in both corpora, only 19 in the
BNC and 20 in the COCA were actually the examples of the resulting copular
complementation. Moreover, unlike in case of *go* or *turn*, the meaning of the
overwhelming majority of complements is positive: *true, alive, clean, good* or
free. Some of the adjectives are neutral (*unstuck, loose, thick*), but neither of
them has a negative meaning. This is in accordance with Quirk et al. (1985,
1174) – see 2.4.4.

The complements in the BNC and COCA are very similar: 13 out of the 19 (BNC) and 20 (COCA) adjectives found are identical. Nevertheless, one noticeable difference between British English and American English was revealed by this research: the phrase *come due*, which appears quite frequently in the COCA. It occurs only 6 times in the BNC. As we will see in section 4.7, the complement *due* is preferred with the verb *fall* in British English.

Table 11: Complements of *come* in the BNC

BNC	[come] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	true	305	0	2	307
2.	alive	173	0	6	179
3.	clean	103	0	1	104
4.	unstuck	73	0	11	84
5.	good	46	8	1	55
6.	free	47	0	0	47
7.	loose	37	0	2	39
8.	thick	29	1	3	33
9.	clear	25	2	1	28
10.	undone	24	0	0	24
11.	new	14	0	1	15
12.	short	11	0	1	12
13.	bundled	12	0	0	12
14.	fresh	11	0	0	11
15.	hot	10	0	1	11
16.	awake	8	0	3	11
17.	low	5	0	6	11
18.	strong	6	0	0	6
19.	loud	5	0	0	5

Table 12: Complements of *come* in the COCA

COCA	[come] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	true	2387	0	10	2397
2.	alive	1066	1	9	1076
3.	clean	615	0	9	624
4.	loose	364	0	3	367
5.	due	265	0	1	266
6.	undone	185	0	5	190

7.	free	167	0	3	170
10.	awake	111	0	27	138
8.	clear	125	6	2	133
9.	open	123	0	6	129
11.	live	110	0	0	110
12.	unglued	98	0	4	102
13.	bundled	54	0	0	54
14.	onstage	48	0	1	49
17.	short	36	3	2	41
15.	unraveled	40	0	0	40
16.	unstuck	37	0	1	38
18.	thick	23	2	1	26
19.	available	22	0	1	23
20.	good	16	3	1	20

4.7 Fall

In its principal meaning, *fall* is also a verb of motion, meaning: "to descend freely (primarily by 'weight' or gravity)." (OED) The copular usage is very restricted.

Complementing adjectives occur exclusively in their positive forms. Although there are some comparatives following the verb *fall*, they are very rare and only as parts of an NP as in (46); i.e. no comparative form in the function of a resulting copular complementation was found either in the BNC or COCA.

(46)   ***Falling faster*** *than a rifle bullet, the pull of Earths gravity increased five-fold.* [COCA: 2004: SPOK: CBS_Sixty]

In addition, complements premodified by an adverb are not frequent, they can be found in a considerable number only with the most common complements, i.e. with *short* and *asleep*.

Some of the complements can be put together in one group: *asleep, half-conscious, unconscious, dead, ill, sick* and *lame*. These combinations of *fall* and adjectival complements have negative meaning; they are changes into a worse condition.

Then there are three combinations of *fall* and adjectives denoting a change into silence: *fall silent, fall quiet* and *fall mute.* They can be perceived as a decrease in loudness or in activity.

Then there is also one pair of antonyms that occur as complements of *fall*: *fall open* and *fall shut* (or *closed*). Nevertheless, unlike with *grow*, no other similar pair of adjectives with opposite meaning was found in the complementation of *fall*.

As for the differences between the two corpora, there are two noticeable points: *fall due* and *fall foul*. The difference of the usage of the complement *due* was mentioned in section 4.6 and thus there is no need to repeat it here.

The phrase *fall foul* appears more frequently in the BNC – 107 times in total. It can also be found in the COCA. However, the number of occurrences is considerably smaller, only 13. This phrase is used only scarcely in American English.

Table 13: Complements of *fall* in the BNC

BNC	[fall] [aj*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	asleep	376	0	14	390
2.	short	222	0	84	306
3.	foul	106	0	1	107
4.	due	81	0	0	81
5.	ill	60	0	4	64
6.	flat	57	0	7	64
7.	silent	52	0	5	57
8.	open	22	0	2	24
9.	good	16	3	1	20
10.	sick	16	0	1	17
11.	vacant	13	0	0	13
12.	pregnant	10	0	0	10
13.	free	7	0	0	7
14.	shut	4	0	0	4
15.	dead	3	0	0	3
16.	alert	1	0	0	1
17.	empty	1	0	0	1
18.	half-conscious	1	0	0	1

19.	lame	1	0	0	1
20.	out of date	1	0	0	1

Table 14: Complements of *fall* in the COCA

COCA	[fall] [j*]	positive	comparative	adverb	total
1.	asleep	4832	0	164	4996
2.	short	1818	0	498	2316
3.	silent	1208	0	59	1267
4.	ill	435	0	39	474
5.	flat	400	0	14	414
6.	open	263	0	6	269
7.	dead	125	0	1	126
8.	quiet	73	0	9	82
9.	sick	81	0	0	81
10.	unconscious	50	0	1	51
11.	free	48	0	0	48
12.	loose	36	0	1	37
13.	shut	29	0	0	29
14.	due	25	0	0	25
15.	closed	16	0	0	16
16.	foul	13	0	0	13
17.	mute	11	0	0	11
18.	cold	10	0	0	10
19.	incomplete	10	0	0	10
20.	vacant	9	0	1	10
21.	shy	7	0	3	10
22.	wide	8	0	0	8
23.	fair	7	0	0	7
24.	empty	7	0	0	7
25.	black	5	0	1	6

5 CONCLUSIONS

The aim of my research was to find and compare usage of the main resulting copulas in English: *become, come, fall, get, go, grow* and *turn*. I used five criteria: the frequency of the past participle adjectives, the frequency of comparative forms, the frequency of adjectival complements premodified by an adverb, whether the verb takes positive or negative complements and whether its complements can be classified into some common semantic fields. Moreover I paid attention to differences between the complements of the verbs in British and American English. My results were compared with the statements from linguistic literature.

The verb **become** is the least restricted one, syntactically and semantically. The past participle adjectives are often present among its complements. The comparative forms (both synthetic and analytic) of complementing adjectives are frequent, only few adjectives in complementation of *become* have no token in their comparative forms. These are adjectives such as *pregnant, extinct, impossible* and *infected*, which normally do not occur in comparative forms. The adjectives premodified by adverbs are frequent as well; there were only three complements in the BNC which do no have any token when premodified by an adverb. In the COCA, all of the complements can be found with adverbial premodification. There are some complementing adjectives that are more frequent in their comparative form (namely *important, common* and *difficult*) and some that are more frequently modified by an adverb (*popular, important* and *close*).

The meaning of the complements is very wide, *become* can be complemented by a positive, negative and neutral adjective, no clear preference of any of these can be stated. Moreover no restrictions in semantic fields of adjectives can be noticed.

The majority of complements of *become* were identical in both corpora, however, one difference could be noticed: while British English *become serious* and *get serious* with a similar frequency, American English strongly prefers the combination with the verb *get*.

With the verb **get**, the past participles occur very frequently; 16 out of 43 adjectives in my sample of complementation in the BNC are past participles and 15 out of 40 adjectives in my sample of complementation in the COCA are past participles. They are much more frequent with *get* than with any other resulting copula analysed in my work. Some of the adjectives, such as *old, good, big, bad, strong* and *small* appear more frequently in their comparative forms in complementation of *get*. For illustration, *get old* has 120 tokens in the BNC and 1,053 tokens in the COCA, while *get older* has 312 tokens in the BNC and 2,399 tokens in the COCA. All of these adjectives have synthetic comparative forms, analytic comparatives are rare. However, the majority of its complements normally take synthetic comparative forms, as they are one or two syllable words. The premodification of complementing adjectives by adverbs is quite frequent.

Get takes positive (*married, better, rich*), neutral (*used to, ready, big*) and negative complements (*worst, lost, drunk*); no preference can be stated. Concerning meanings of the complements and their semantic fields there are no noticeable tendencies or restrictions.

There was no striking difference between the two corpora, apart from *become serious* and *get serious*, which is mentioned above.

Only one of the complements of **go** in both tables was past participle, *bust*. The comparative forms of adjectives in the complementation of *go* are very scarce; most of the complements are not found in the comparative form at all. The adverbial premodification of the complementing adjectives in not frequent, however, it is possible.

The meaning of the complements is often negative. Some of them are neutral, but there are no complements of a clearly positive meaning. Unlike *become* and *get*, the complements of *go* can be classified into several groups according to their semantic field. *Go* is often complemented by colour adjectives. These adjectives are often used metaphorically. Other groups are the adjectives denoting a state of mind, which are often connected to madness and thus they are negative.

There most two striking difference between the results from the BNC and

COCA was the usage of the adjective *mad*. It appears mostly in combination with *go* in British English, while it is more frequent with *get* in American English. This can be explained by the difference in meaning in both variants of English. In British English it is synonymous to *crazy* or *insane*, which occur mostly in combination with *go*. On the other hand, in American English, *mad* is synonymous to *angry*, which can occur only in combination with *get*.

The usage of **turn** is very similar to *go*. No past participle adjective is found in my sample of its complements. The comparative forms as well as the adverbs premodifying the complements are very rare. However, they can occur.

The verb *turn* is very often connected to adjectives with negative meaning. No adjective is clearly positive and the neutral adjectives are mostly colour adjectives. Colour adjectives, which are often used metaphorically, constitute the biggest semantic group of complements of *turn*. There is no preference for any specific colour.

The complements in both BNC and COCA are similar. The only remarkable difference is the phrase *turn professional*, which has the highest number of tokens in the BNC and a considerably lower number in the COCA. However, there is *turn pro* in the COCA, which is its shortened informal form. If *both turn professional* and *turn pro* are counted together, the difference in frequency of usage is not so big.

Grow can be complemented by past participles. Nevertheless, they are not frequent. The adjectives *old, big, long, strong, large* and *wide* are more frequent in their comparative forms. Analytic comparatives in complementation of *grow* are rare. Adverbial premodification of adjectives complementing *grow* is possible and slightly more frequent than with *go* and *turn*.

The most of the adjectives have a neutral meaning. Many of the complements can be classified into two main semantic fields. The first one consists of adjectives of size or spatial adjectives, such as *tall, big, long, thick, large, wide, great, short* and *small.* The other semantic field includes the complements expressing states of mind: *tired, bored, impatient, restless, angry* and *anxious*. Moreover, there are several pairs of complements of opposite

meaning: *quiet/ loud; strong/ weak; big, large/ small* and *hot, warm/ cold*.

There is not any striking difference between the usage of *grow* in the BNC and COCA.

Past participle ajdectives used in its complementation of **come** have often the affix *-un*. Comparative forms of complementing adjectives are rare; the overwhelming majority of complements cannot be found in comparative form. The adverbial premodification is not frequent, however, it is possible.

Unlike *go* and *turn*, the complementation of *come* is very often positive; no negative complement can be found in my sample. Semantically the complements are not restricted.

Only one remarkable difference between the tokens from both corpora was found. The phrase *come due* occurs more frequently in the COCA, while in the BNC the adjective *due* is more frequently combined with *fall*.

The last verb analysed in my work is **fall**. It is the least frequent of all the seven verbs. Past participles in its complementation can be found, however, they are rare. *Fall* is the only resulting copula discussed in my work that cannot be complemented by an adjective in its comparative form. Adverbial premodification of complements is possible, but not frequent. The majority of the complements of *fall* are not premodified at all.

Many complements *are* negative in meaning; these are mainly the complements connected to an illnesses or other physical distress: *half-conscious, unconscious, dead, ill, sick* and *lame*. The other group of adjectives consists of expressions of silence: *silent, quiet* and *mute*.

One of the noticeable differences of usage of *fall* between British and American English, the phrase *fall d*ue and *come due*, was mentioned above. There is another difference, the frequency of *fall foul*. This phrase is very frequent in the BNC (107 tokens), but very scarce in the COCA (13 tokens).

There were several drawbacks encountered during my corpus research. The most striking one was the disproportion of the volumes of both corpora. While the BNC contains 100 million words, the volume of the COCA is more

than four times higher, 425 million words. The numbers of the complements of the analysed verbs thus could not be simply compared between both corpora. I thus paid attention to their frequencies among the complements in each corpus and I compared them according their order in the tables.

Another problem is caused by the fact that the corpora were not produced in the same time period. While the creation of the BNC stopped in the 1994, the process of creation of the COCA still goes on. Thus there are some new words included in the COCA, which were scarce in 1990's. I encountered one of the words with the verb *go*: *go online* (or *go on-line*, both forms counted together), which is the fifth most frequent complement in the COCA (with 867 tokens) and has only two tokens in the BNC.

Not all of the criteria used to compare the seven main resulting copulas in my work were applied in linguistic literature. However, none of my findings were conradictory to any of the statements in the literature.

6   SHRNUTÍ

Ve své bakalářské práci jsem se zabýval sponovými slovesy změny stavu a jejich doplněním v britské a americké angličtině. Konkrétně jsem se zaměřil na doplnění adjektivem sedmi nejčastějších sponových sloves změny stavu: *become, come, fall, get, go, grow* a *turn*.

V teoretické části jsem nejprve stručně představil hlavní použité zdroje a zmínil rozdíly v užité terminologii. Dále jsem poskytl teoretické pozadí mého výzkumu, vypracované na základě použité literatury. Uvedl jsem hlavní sponové sloveso v angličtině, *to be*, a ukázal na něm prototypické užití sponových sloves. Sponová slovesa jsou následována doplňkem. Tento doplněk může být vyjádřen adjektivem, substantivem, předložkovou vazbou nebo infinitivem.

Kromě toho jsem uvedl základní rozdělení sponových sloves na *current copulas*, neboli *sponová slovesa typu be* (Dušková et al. 1994, 413) a *resulting copulas*, neboli *sponová slovesa typu become* (Dušková et al. 1994, 413). Zatímco *current copulas* vyjadřují setrvání v určitém stavu a často jsou slovesy smyslového vnímání (*feel, look, taste*), *resulting copulas* vyjadřují změnu stavu a mohou být vnímána jako synonyma slovesa *become*.

Dále jsem vypsal seznamy jednotlivých sponových sloves změny stavu, jak byly uvedeny v jednotlivých titulech použité literatury. Slovesa byla obvykle dělena do dvou skupin: základní, *become, come, fall, get, go, grow* a *turn*, a méně častá, s velmi omezeným užitím, například *blush, run* nebo *wax*. K sedmi základním slovesům jsem uvedl bližší informace.

V praktické části jsem napřed představil oba korpusy použité k vyhledávaní dat. Britský národní korpus (BNC) obsahuje 100 milionů slov, z nichž 10% jsou transkripce nahrávek spontánního mluveného projevu, pořízených přímo pro tento korpus. Americký korpus současné angličtiny (COCA), obsahuje 420 milionů slov. Transkripce mluveného slova zabírají 21% objemu COCA, avšak na rozdíl od BNC se jedná především o přepisy rozhlasových a televizních programů. Každý z korpusů navíc používá jiný "tagset".

Dále jsem popsal, jakým způsobem jsem získával data z obou korpusů. Pro každé sloveso jsem musel do korpusu naformulovat dotaz, "query", který našel adjektiva následující dané sloveso. Sloveso bylo uvedeno jako lemma, tedy v hranatých závorkách, abych našel všechny jeho tvary. Pro adjektivum jsem užil zastupující značku, "tag". "Tag" pro BNC vypadal následovně: [aj*] a pro COCA: [j*].

Takto jsem získal seznam 100 nejfrekventovanějších spojení slovesa s adjektivem. V této stovce frází ale byla některá adjektiva vícekrát, neboť sloveso se mohlo vyskytnout ve čtyřech či pěti tvarech (*become, became, becomes, becoming*). Jednotlivá adjektiva jsem si vypsal a potom jsem zadával do korpusu nové dotazy, kde tentokrát nebyla značka pro adjektivum, ale adjektivum samotné, abych nalezl všechny jeho výskyty s daným slovesem. Některá adjektiva, u kterých bylo jasné, že ve spojení se slovesem nevyjadřují změnu stavu (*go unchallenged*), jsem vyloučil ještě před počítáním jejich četnosti. Jiná adjektiva jsem vyloučil až poté, co jsem si prohlédl v korpusu příklady jejich užití ve větách (*grow wild*).

Vyhledával jsem adjektiva v pozitivu a v komparativu a dále adjektiva premodifikovaná adverbiem. Abych vyloučil adjektiva, jež sice sloveso následovala, ale pojila se k substantivu a ne danému slovesu, zadal jsem pokaždé ještě jeden dotaz, který mi tato případná substantiva zobrazil. Tyto výskyty jsem neodečítal automaticky, ale napřed jsem si prohlédl výsledky; substantivum v některých případech vůbec nepatřilo do jednoho celku s adjektivem, viz příklad (12) v sekci 3.3.2.

Takto získaná data byla zanesena do tabulek. Každé sloveso bylo opatřeno dvěmi tabulkami, jednou pro výsledky z BNC a druhou pro výsledky z COCA. První cifra v tabulce udává počet výskytů adjektiva v pozitivu a bez adverbiální premodifikace. Druhá cifra udává počet výskytů adverbia v komparativu, ať už syntetickém či analogickém. Třetí cifra zobrazuje počet výskytů adjektiva v pozitivu a zároveň premodifikovaných adverbiem. Adjektiva byla seřazena podle jejich celkové četnosti (udávané čtvrtou cifrou) v roli doplňku analyzovaných sloves.

Poslední část práce prezentuje data získaná výše popsaným způsobem. Analyzoval jsem slovesa *become, get, go, turn, grow, come* a *fall.* U každého

z nich jsem se zaměřil na pět kritérií: jak často se mezi doplňky vyskytují příčestí minulá, jak časté jsou komparativy, jak často jsou adjektiva v doplňku premodifikována adverbii, pojí-li se sloveso spíše s doplňky s pozitivním či negativním významem a zda lze doplňky zařadit do společných sémantických polí.

Sloveso *become* je v angličtině užíváno bez větších omezení, jak syntaktických, tak sémantických. Adjektiva, která se k němu pojí, mohou být v pozitivu a často i v komparativu. Pouze adjektiva *pregnant, extinct, impossible* a *infected* se v kombinaci s *become* nevyskytují v komparativu. Tato adjektiva ale obecně nejsou v komparativu používána. Adjektiva se také mohou být premodifikována adverbiem. Význam adjektiv v roli doplňku slovesa *become* může být jak neutrální, tak i pozitivní či negativní. Jejich sémantický rozsah je široký, mohou se prakticky týkat jakékoliv oblasti.

Sloveso *get* je často doplněno adjektivy ve tvaru minulého participia; v tabulce pro BNC to je 16 ze 43 adjektiv, v COCA 15 ze 40. Adjektiva *old, good, big, bad, strong* a *small* se vyskytují častěji v komparativu než v pozitivu. Analytické komparativy nejsou tak časté jako u *become*, neboť *get* se nejčastěji pojí s kratšími adjektivy (jednoslabičnými a dvojslabičnými). Doplňky nejsou nijak omezeny, co se týče jejich významu. Mohou být neutrální, pozitivní i negativní a mohou spadat do nejrůznějších oblastí.

Sloveso *go* se naopak od *get* s minulými participii téměř nepojí, v obou tabulkách se vyskytuje jen jedno minulé participium: *bust*. Komparativy se v doplnění *go* vyskytují jen minimálně. Adverbia premodifikující doplňky se vyskytují méně často než u *become* a *get*. *Go* se často pojí s negativními či neutrálními adjektivy. Sémanticky mohou být doplňky slovesa *go* zažazeny do dvou hlavních skupin: adjektiva označující barvy a adjektiva označující psychické stavy, obvykle spojené s šílenstvím.

V mém vzorku doplňků slovesa *turn* nebylo nalezeno ani jediné minulé participium. Komparativy v doplnění *turn* se vyskytují jen výjimečně, taktéž premodifikace adverbiem není častá. Toto sloveso se obvykle pojí s adjektivy s negativním či neutrálním významem. Doplňky jsou nejčastěji adjektiva označující barvy.

Grow může být doplněno minulým participiem (*tired, bored, accustomed*). Adjektiva *old, big, long, strong, large* a *wide* se v doplnění *grow* obvykle vyskytují v komparativu. Premodifikace adverbiem je také možná. Většina doplňků *grow* má neutrální význam. Často se jedná o adjektiva vyjadřující velikost a prostorové dimenze. Taktéž se vyskytují adjektiva označující duševní stavy (*tired, bored, impatient, restless, angry*).

Minulá participia pojící se ke slovesu **come** mají obvykle předponu –*un* (*unstuck, undone, unglued*). Komparativy či adjektiva premodifikovaná adverbiem se v doplňku *come* vyskytují jen sporadicky. *Come* se pojí s adjektivy pozitivními či neutrálními, ani jedno z doplnění v mém vzorku nemělo negativní význam. Sémanticky mohou doplňující adjektiva spadat do rozličných oblastí bez viditelného omezení.

Fall se může v ojedinělých případech pojit s minulým participiem (*shut, closed*). Žádné z adjektiv a doplnění *fall* nebylo nalezeno v komparativu. Taktéž adjektiva premodifikované adverbiem jsou přítomna jen výjimečně. Doplňky slovesa *fall* mají neutrální či negativní význam. Častá jsou adjektiva spojená s nemocí či tělesným strádáním: *half-conscious, unconscious, dead, ill, sick* a *lame.*

V použitých jazykových příručkách nebyla posuzována všechna tato kritéria u každého jednotlivého slovesa. Nicméně žádné z tvrzení o sponových slovesech změny stavu v odborné literatuře nebylo v rozporu s výsledky mého výzkumu.

Rozdíly v užití sponových sloves změny stavu v britské a americké angličtině jsou minimální. Britská varianta angličtiny používá výrazy *become serious* a *get serious* přibližně ve stejné frekvenci, zatímco americká varianta výrazně preferuje *get serious*. Stejně tak je v americké angličtině častější g*et mad*, ačkoli britská angličtina upřednostňuje *go mad*. Adjektivum *due* se v britské variantě angličtiny pojí spíše s *fall*, v americké s *come*. *Go online*, které se v COCA vyskytuje 867krát a v BNC jen dvakrát, neilustruje rozdíl mezi oběma variantami angličtiny, ale v dataci textů uvedených v obou korpusech – BNC byl dokončen ještě před masovým rozšířením internetu.

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8   LIST OF ABREVIATIOS

AP   adjective phrase

BNC   British National Corpus

COCA   Corpus of Contemporary American English

NP   noun phrase

OED   Oxford English Dictionary

OALD   Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

PC   predicative complement

Anotace

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