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DISTRIBUTION OF *SORT OF* IN ENGLISH CORPORA AND ITS
CZECH EQUIVALENTS

(Diplomová práce)

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Olomouc 2013

Prohlášení

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V Olomouci dne.

Podpis

Poděkování

Ráda bych poděkovala paní Mgr. Michaelle Martinkové, PhD. za její pomoc, za její zpětnou vazbu, cenné rady a v neposlední řadě trpělivost při psaní této práce.

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1 Introduction

This master thesis aims to study the use of *sort of* in English and the ways in which *sort of* is translated to Czech. In order to do so, various grammar books and articles were explored to reveal the functions of *sort of*, and a parallel corpus was used to search for the Czech equivalents.

Johansson points out that “in monolingual corpora we can easily study forms and formal patterns, but meanings are less accessible. One of the most fascinating aspects of multilingual corpora is that they can make meanings visible through translation patterns” (2007, 57). The analysis of the Czech equivalents of *sort of* in this thesis attempts to address the question: Does *sort* always mean *druh/ typ*?

First, a theoretical background for the phrase *sort of* is introduced. This is not an easy task to do, as different linguists present different points of view. Moreover, various terms are used to refer to *sort of*. These terms vary from general categorisations like “type nouns” (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt), “species nouns” (Leech and Svartvik) or “partitive nouns” (Quirk et al.) to more specific terms that are reflective of functions of *sort of*, such as “a modifier” (Lakoff), “a qualifier” (Brems and Davidse), or “an adverbial” (Miskovic-Lukovic).

For the purposes of this thesis, two basic uses of *sort of* in the English language will be distinguished: uses internal and uses external to the noun phrase. In case of the internal uses, *sort of* is followed by nouns (possibly premodified), in case of the external uses, *sort of* is followed by verb phrases and adjectival phrases. Brems and Davidse (2010) and Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008) discuss the uses internal to the noun phrase in detail in five different types of constructions that they introduce. Using these constructions, they explain how the function of *sort of* developed.

In the practical part of the thesis, the analysis will be made based on the InterCorp corpus, as a multilingual translation corpus that includes texts in 27 languages that all have Czechs counterparts. For the purposes of this

thesis, a subcorpus will be created: it will constitute of works of fiction published after 1914 whose original language was English.

Data downloaded from Intercorp will be subjected to a close analysis. The tokens will be categorised according to various criteria – syntax (categories of the uses internal and external to the NP) as well as translations (specific categories of translation equivalents). The Czech equivalents are dealt with separately for *sort of* inside and outside the noun phrase.

Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 142), with reference to the study by De Smedt et al. (2007), argue that written prose mostly includes type nouns internal to the noun phrase, whereas informal conversation reveals uses external to the noun phrase. Hence it is expected that the analysis of tokens that are taken from fiction will turn out to be in favour of the internal uses of *sort of* as well.

2 Theoretical preliminaries

Sort of has many different uses in the English sentence and falls under many different categories, for which **various terms** have been used: “a type noun” (Brems and Davidse 2010, Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008), “a partitive noun” (Quirk et al. 1985) or “a species noun” (Leech and Svartvik 2002); “a modifier” (Lakoff 1973, Brems and Davidse 2010, Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008), “a deintensifier” (Lakoff 1973), “a quantifier”, “a qualifier” and a “postdeterminer” (Brems and Davidse 2010, Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008), “a downtoner” or “a compromiser” (Quirk et al. 1985); “a hedge” (Lakoff 1973), “an adverbial” (Brems and Davidse 2010, Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, Miskovic-Lukovic 2009), or “a discourse marker” (Brems and Davidse 2010, Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008).

The choice and use of *sort of* depends on the type of register – **colloquial versus formal language**, as well as differentiation between **written and spoken language**. All these differences will be demonstrated on the following pages.

The thesis will differentiate between the use of *sort of* internal to the noun phrase (NP) and external to the NP.

2.1 *Sort of* in uses internal to the NP

Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008) and Brems and Davidse (2010) rank *sort* among **type nouns** along with *kind*, and *type* which express the meaning of “type, subclass” Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008, 139). The authors distinguish **five NP constructions** with these type nouns: binominal, postdeterminer, nominal qualifying, descriptive modifier, and quantifier constructions. Their general structure is [type noun + *of* + N2], where N2 is the second noun in the construction besides the type noun itself.

Kind and *sort* are type nouns that are in Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008) and Brems and Davidse (2010) considered **interchangeable**;

hence further in the descriptions of the constructions I will use examples with *kind* to demonstrate the use of *sort* as well.

2.1.1 *Sort* as the head of the NP

There is only one of these five constructions in which *sort* is used as a head noun – the binominal construction. In the other four constructions, *sort* loses the status of a head noun and precedes the new head there – N2. Hence such uses of *sort* are referred to below as “pre-head” uses.

2.1.1.1 The binominal construction

The binominal construction is the only construction in which ***sort* is used as a head**. According to Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 144), this construction “contains two nouns used with their full lexical weight, designating subordinate and superordinate types of entities.” As Brems and Davidse (2010, 184) further explain, in this construction, “we find the lexically **full use** of *sort* and *kind* **meaning ‘(sub)kind’**. . . . These NPs have **generic reference**; they refer to (whole) subclasses of the superordinate classes expressed by N2.” In (1), the type noun, *kind*, is the head of the NP.

- (1) I have a brewery that produces *a special kind of beer*.¹

According to Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008,144), the NPs can refer to species, substances, social groups, brands or types of products.

Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008,145) also discuss a **modification**: “If an adjective occurs in front of the type noun, it applies to that noun.” They differentiate between **classifying modifiers** that “actually name the subtype referred to by the binominal NP” (145) and the **attributive modifiers** that “ascribe a quality to the subtype” (145). Example

¹ If not stated otherwise, all the sentences exemplifying the individual constructions are taken from Brems and Davidse (2010). Example numbering is mine.

(1), now repeated as (2), shows the classifying modifier, whereas example (3) shows the attributive modifier.

(2) I have a brewery that produces *a special kind of beer*.

(3) ... their records started at 54.5 kilograms per tusk weight, obviously based on *the East African type of elephant*.²

In this type of construction, there still is a **concord in number** between *sort*, the determiner, and the verb. Davidse, Brems and De Smedt comment that “if such NPs are plural, then they have a plural type noun” (2008, 145). This is clearly demonstrated in (4) where the determiners are marked with number – a quantifier and a demonstrative.

(4) *These two sortes* of the children of Israel.

2.1.2 *Sort of* in a non-head use in the NP

As has been mentioned above, in the binominal construction, *sort* as the head of the NP has a generic reference. It is this generic reference that is “the crucial semantic feature **distinguishing the lexical head use** of type nouns **from all their pre-head uses**” (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 144). The “pre-head uses”, i.e. where the type noun is not the head of the NP, are found in all the other four constructions with type nouns within the NP: the postdeterminer, the nominal qualifying, the descriptive modifier, and the quantifier construction. These will be discussed in the following sections.

2.1.2.1 The postdeterminer construction

In the postdeterminer construction, the type noun is no longer the head of the NP and neither does it refer to a generic subclass. The type noun here is

² This example is taken from Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 145).

used as a postdeterminer, i.e. it follows the primary determiner. Together, they **form a complex determiner** (Brems and Davidse 2010, 184–185):

- (5) “Our very pride, methinks, should be a sufficient guard, and turn whatever favourable thoughts we might have of such a one, unknowing his design, into aversion, when once convinced he presumed upon our weakness”. In *these kind of* reasonings did she continue some time.

Example (5) reveals the **lack of concord** between the **primary determiner** and the **type noun**, that is between plural *these* and singular *kind*. This is because the type noun in this construction is **always singular**, even when in combination with a plural determiner (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 151) which leads to seemingly ungrammatical results, such as *these kind*. This is another important feature distinguishing this type of construction from the binominal one, where the number of the type noun is in concord with the number of its determiner. Compare *these two sortes of the children* from (4) representing the binominal construction, and *these kind of reasonings* from (5) that represents this postdeterminer construction. The head noun here is the N2, *reasonings* (not *sort* any more), and the primary determiner shows a concord in number with this head, *these reasonings* – *sort* is inserted between the determiner and the head in its unchanged form as a postdeterminer.

There is one more fact that supports the difference between the binominal and the postdeterminer construction – “the **possibility of having a before N2**” in the latter. (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 152). This is demonstrated in (6):

- (6) ... coach K is an honourable man. He would not hold a rally to scapegoat anyone; he just isn't *that type of a man*.³

Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 152) explain that such an insertion of the indefinite article in the postdeterminer construction is possible because N2 is a head noun. In (6), the indefinite article is placed before *man*= N2= head. *Sort of* and the determiner function together as a single complex determiner *that sort of*.

According to Brems and Davidse (2010, 185–186), the type noun in this construction helps to **express textual relations**, in other words a type of phoricity. **Anaphoric uses** of complex determiners (referring back) normally contain a demonstrative pronoun as a primary determiner (which can be replaced by the predeterminer *such* and convey the same meaning), **cataphoric** complex determiners (pointing forward) include mostly *the*, and **non-phoric** uses (no antecedent or postcedent is referred to) are introduced by *some* or *what*. Examples (5), repeated here as (7), (8), and (9) demonstrate the types of phoricity, respectively.

- (7) “Our very pride, methinks, should be a sufficient guard, and turn whatever favourable thoughts we might have of such a one, unknowing his design, into aversion, when once convinced he presumed upon our weakness”. In *these kind of* reasonings did she continue some time.

- (8) We have to develop exactly *the kind of* deterrent strategy for biological weapons as has worked so well for nuclear weapons in the past.⁴

- (9) You see *what a kind of Shuffling* there has been to stifle the Truth.

³ This example is taken from Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 152).

⁴ This example is taken from Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 154).

Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt talk about “very strong **cooccurrence patterns** between function words and specific textual patterns” (2008, 156). Cataphoric uses form the largest proportion of postdeterminer uses (58.79%), anaphoric uses rank second (29.89%) and non-phoric uses form only a small portion of the total number of postdeterminer uses (11.32%) (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 154–155).

2.1.2.2 The nominal qualifying construction

As Brems and Davidse explain, this construction again involves “demotion from head noun status of the type noun” but here, “the string *sort/kind of* ‘qualifies’ the categorisation expressed by N2, which is the head of the construction” (2010, 181).

Brems and Davidse (2010, 191) further explain what it means to say that “the nominal description offered by N2 is qualified”: it is “hedged, toned down or otherwise nuanced.” This is demonstrated in (10) below with *supergroupie*, where *kind of* in front of it “tones down this possibly offensive classification which is applied to a specific individual” (Brems and Davidse 2010, 181). In addition to that, there is **no generic reference** to a particular subtype of *supergroupie* (Brems and Davidse 2010, 181).

- (10) She started off as *a kind of supergroupie*, but then he couldn’t be without her.

According to Brems and Davidse (2010, 181), this use is **speaker-related and subjective** as it shows speaker’s **uncertainty, humour or irony** considering the categorisation of the referent.

Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 156–157) also investigate the use of determiners in this construction and conclude that the **determiner is part of the qualifying unit**, since viewing the determiner independently can lead to ungrammatical results, as in (11) – the indefinite article with an uncountable head noun.

(11) It's *a kind of* magic. * it's a magic.

2.1.2.3 The descriptive modifier construction

The construction in which the type noun is a part of descriptive modifier consists of **two subtypes** – the attributive modifier use and the semi-suffix use (Brems and Davidse 2010, 187). These two types differ in **what lexical element precedes** the type noun.

In the **attributive modifier use** of the type noun, the preceding element is a qualitative adjective, as in (12). The adjective modifies the second noun in the construction, not the type noun (Brems and Davidse 2010, 187).

(12) This is but *a scandalous sort of an office*.

As in *the* case of *supergroupie* in the nominal qualifying construction (example (7), neither here does the NP refer to a subtype (of an *office*), but rather an individual of the type. This is reflected in the **use of the indefinite article⁵ before the second noun** in the construction (Brems and Davidse 2010, 187).

Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008, 148) discuss the use of **collocates** between the adjectives and *sort of* in this construction and compare it to the binominal construction: “The adjectives occurring in attributive uses form a large set of **very infrequent collocates**.” Those adjectives can describe a character trait of a person (e.g. *a scattered sort of person*), modify an abstract noun (e.g. *a peaceful sort of sorrow*) or premodify the noun *way* by unusual expressions (e.g. *in a moody-broody sort of way*).⁶ The binominal construction, on the other hand, tends to “co-

⁵ Inserting an indefinite article in front of the second noun is only possible, not necessary, and only under the conditions that the noun is singular and countable (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 148).

⁶ The examples in parenthesis are taken from Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 148).

occur mainly with a remarkably small set of adjectives such as *new*, *special* and *rare*” (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008, 148).

In the second subtype, the **semi-suffix use** of the type noun, the element preceding the type noun is “of a more classifying nature and can be of varying length” (Brems and Davidse 2010, 188). According to the authors, it can be a classifying adjective, a proper name, a fixed expression or a nonce expression (Brems and Davidse 2010, 188).

According to Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008, 149), the **fixed and nonce expressions** are normally **longer**, as demonstrated in (13), and more common in this use than the other above stated elements (a classifying adjective or a proper name).

- (13) David knew nothing about *this mincing, half-and-half, milk-and-water sort of religion*.

Brems and Davidse add that this construction “also **often has hedging meaning**, indicating that the description is only approximative” (2010, 188).

2.1.2.4 The quantifier construction

In the last construction, type nouns are part of quantifiers. The most commonly used phrases include the **type noun in plural** (*sorts* or *kinds*) **in combination with *all*** (Brems and Davidse 2010, 188).

Brems and Davidse (2010, 188) explain that there was a “shift from the universal quantifier sense of *all* in the binominal construction to the ‘**many**’ sense of the quantifier construction.” Furthermore, as demonstrated in (14), *sort of* evokes a **notion of variety** (the meaning similar to the quantifier *various*) besides the meaning of large quantity (Brems and Davidse 2010, 189).

- (14) Then wash the curd till it be as white and cleane from *all sorts of motes* as is possible.

2.1.3 On the development of the constructions

The **binominal construction** is considered **original** in both Brems and Davidse (2010) and Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008). It is the only construction in which the specific **type noun** still has the **original meaning** of “subclass”, which cannot be said about any of the other four constructions. According to Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008), the development of the constructions reflects how the **meaning of the type noun in the NP changed**. This shift in meaning is what enables the basic division into *sort* as the **head of the NP** (2.1.1) and *sort* in a **non-head use in the NP** (2.1.2).

Brems and Davidse (2010) follow **Denison’s chronology of “reanalysis”** to explain the development of these different uses of type nouns. The chronology is described as follows:

The postdeterminer construction was the first to derive from the binominal construction: for *kind* it appeared about forty years (c.1380) after its source construction, for *sort* it was over a century later (c.1560). The nominal qualifying construction of *sort* and *kind* developed from the binominal construction at a later stage, at the end of the sixteenth century, and was also influenced by the postdeterminer construction. (Brems and Davidse 2010,182)

Figure 1 depicts Denison’s chronology and demonstrates how the constructions developed with relation to time periods.

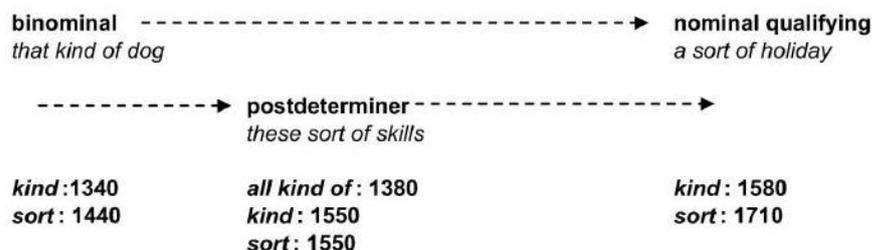


Figure 1: Denison’s chronology (Brems and Davidse 2010, 192).

In their study, Brems and Davidse (2010) identify **two more NP constructions** that they distinguish, namely the descriptive modifier and the quantifier construction.

Brems and Davidse explain the specific position of *type* in these five distinguished constructions: “*Type*, a third important member of the type noun set in Present-day English, will be left out of the discussion. As a later addition to that set it developed at a different rate than *sort* and *kind*; qualifying uses with *type*, for instance, are only just starting to be attested” (2010, 182).

2.1.4 Other classifications of *sort (of)*

Quirk et al. introduce *sort of* in the context of **partitive constructions**, i.e. “constructions denoting a part of a whole” (1985, 249). These constructions comprise a specific partitive noun (according to which they are further divided into partition in respect of quantity⁷ and in respect of quality) followed by *of* and a countable or uncountable noun. *Sort*, *kind*, and *type* are partitive nouns that express the **quality partition**. As countable nouns, they can be used both in the singular (singular partitives), as in (15a), and in the plural (plural partitives), as in (15b) (Quirk et al. 1985, 249).

- (15) (a) a delicious *sort of* bread
(b) delicious *sorts of* bread⁸

Quirk et al. further explain that in order to express quality partition, uncountable nouns in the *of*-phrase can either enter a corresponding partitive construction, or they might as well be reclassified as countable. For instance, “a nice kind of coffee” can be expressed simply as “a nice coffee” (1985, 249).

⁷ Partition in respect of quantity includes partitives like *piece*, *block*, *loaf*, *crowd* or *herd*.

⁸ This example is taken from Quirk et al. 1985, 249.

Leech and Svartvik (2002, 41) talk about “division of objects and substances” and they refer to *sort* (and other nouns like *type*, *kind*, *species*, *class*, or *variety*) as **species nouns** that “can divide a mass or set of objects into ‘types’ or ‘species’” (42).

Unlike Quirk et al. (1985), Leech and Svartvik (2002, 42) examine also the **position of modifiers** in the NP containing species nouns. They point out that “we usually place adjectives and other modifiers before the species noun rather than the noun which follows *of*.” Example (16) demonstrates the difference in placing the modifier, the ungrammatical placement is marked with an asterisk.

(16) A delicious *kind of* bread (* a *kind of* delicious bread)

When it comes to **countability** of the noun in the *of*-phrase, Leech and Svartvik (2002, 42) draw our attention to the absence of indefinite article when the noun is countable. The indefinite article before the noun in the *of*-phrase is normally omitted and stays only before the adjective and the species noun. Example (17) shows this difference.

(17) A strange *kind of* mammal (NOT * a strange *kind of* a mammal)⁹

However, Quirk et al. (1985, 451) provide more information about the **position** of *sort of/ kind of* and the **indefinite article** in the NP. According to them, several possibilities exist in informal style. They are all demonstrated in (18), and include also the construction that Leech and Svartvik (2002, 42) mark as not usually possible (example (17)).

(18) This must be a *sort of* joke.
sort of a joke. (informal)

⁹Examples (16) and (17) are taken from Leech and Svartvik (2002, 42). Example numbering is mine.

a *sort of* a joke. (more informal)

a joke, *sort of*. (most informal)¹⁰

Leech and Svartvik (2002, 42) further state that in informal English also a **mixed construction** is possible in which “the determiner (if any) and the verb are plural, although the species noun is singular” (Leech and Svartvik 2002, 42). Example (19a) demonstrates the mixed construction, whilst (19b) represents the “normal construction”.

(19) (a) These *kind of* dogs are easy to train.

(b) This *kind of* dog is easy to train.¹¹

Such a “mixed construction” is **equivalent to the the postdeterminer construction** described in 2.1.2.1 – it lacks concord between the species noun and its primary determiner. In (19a), *kind of* is inserted in the NP without being adjusted to its plural environment (whilst the determiner, the noun, and the verb are in concord). In case of the postdeterminer construction, the example was *these kind of reasonings*, in (5), which, however, did not say anything about the concord in number with the verb.

2.2 *Sort of* in uses external to the NP

Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008, 142) refer to De Smedt et al. (2007), in which **two different registers were investigated**: a professional written prose of the *Times* subcorpus of the COBUILD corpus, and an informal casual conversation of teenagers of the COLT corpus. Davidse, Brems, and De Smedt (2008, 142) conclude that whereas in the written prose, mainly tokens of *sort of* internal to the NP are found, the conversations revealed mostly **uses external to the NP**. The authors go on to say that the uses

¹⁰ This example is taken from Quirk et al. (1985, 451).

¹¹ These examples are taken from Leech and Svartvik 2002, 42.

external to the NP are “the **adverbial use**”, as in (20), and “the **discourse marker use**”, as in (21). Neither one is frequent in writing.¹²

(20) I actually *sort of like* the constitution.

(21) Uh, he’s particularly in Don Juan he’s *sort of bringing out* the, er, bitterness of *sort of family life*, I mean his wife, er, left him on, er...¹³

According to Miskovic-Lukovic (2009, 603), who refers to *A Grammar of Contemporary English* (1972), the function of *sort of* and *kind of* as adverbials (i.e. in the adverbial use) is to **reduce the force of the verb** to the meaning of either “more or less”, as in (22), or “almost”, as in (23).

(22) I *kind of like* him.¹⁴

(23) He *sort of smiled* at us.

As for the **position** of *sort of/ kind of* in this use, they normally stand before the main verb (examples (20), (22), and (23) above), including negative verb phrases, where they stand before the do-support, as in (24):

(24) He *sort of* didn’t want to say anything about it.

In (25), *kinda* is placed between the auxiliary and its adjectival complement (Miskovic-Lukovic 2009):

¹² “In the *Times* Data, the overwhelming majority, 1671 out of 1717 tokens, or 97.5% were internal to the NP” (Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008).

¹³ Examples (20) and (21) are taken from Davidse, Brems and De Smedt (2008), example numbering is mine.

¹⁴ Examples (22), (23), (24), and (25) are taken from Miskovic-Lukovic (2009), example numbering is mine.

(25) They're still *kinda* yucky.

Quirk et al. (1985) also discuss the adverbial use, except that they use a different terminology. The general term used by Quirk et al. (1985) is **downtoner**. With respect to adjectives, downtoners are modifiers defined as having “a **generally lowering effect**, usually scaling downwards from an assumed norm” (Quirk et al. 1985, 445). *Sort of/ kind of* can be used as downtoners **for adjectives**, as in (26a), **and adverbs**, as in (26b) (Quirk et al. 1985, 446):

(26) (a) He is *sort of* clever.

(b) He spoke *kind of* proudly.¹⁵

This use is identical with (25) and according to Quirk et al. (1985, 446), it is restricted to informal speech.

When *sort of/ kind of* is followed by a **verb**, Quirk et al. define downtoners as having a “generally lowering effect on the force of the verb or predication” (1985, 597). With respect to verbs (not adjectives or adverbs), they divide downtoners into four groups¹⁶ according to the extent to which they affect the force of the verb. *Sort of* comes under the category of **compromisers**,¹⁷ which “have only a **slight lowering effect**” (Quirk et al. 1985, 597). Both *sort of* and *kind of* are informal in this use, as in (27). Moreover, *kind of* is typical of American English (Quirk et al. 1985, 598).

(27) As he was walking along, he *sort of* stumbled and seemed ill.

¹⁵ Examples (26), (27), and (28) are taken from Quirk et al. (1985), example numbering is mine.

¹⁶ Downtoners are further divided into approximators, compromisers, diminishers, and minimizers (Quirk et al. 1985, 597).

¹⁷ Compromisers further include *kind of*, *quite*, *rather*, *enough*, *sufficiently*, and *more or less* (Quirk et al. 1985, 598).

According to Quirk et al. (1985, 601) “a few downtoners can precede a negative verb phrase”, and *sort of* is one of them. This use, however, is always marked as informal and typical of American English (Quirk et al. 1985, 601). This **position** of *sort of* has been demonstrated already in (24) (repeated here for convenience as (28), when I discussed the position of *sort of* in the “adverbial” use.

(28) He *sort of* didn’t want to say anything about it.

There is another author who deals with *sort of* in the adverbial use and who uses a different terminology – George Lakoff (1973) analyses **hedges**. His article introduces the idea that “natural language concepts have vague boundaries and fuzzy edges and that, consequently, natural language sentences will very often be **neither true, nor false**, nor nonsensical, but rather **true to a certain extent** and false to a certain extent, true in certain respects and false in other respects” (Lakoff 1973, 458). As an initial example, Lakoff (1973, 458) sets the sentence *John is tall*.¹⁸ He explains that to label this sentence true or false is not easy, if not even impossible, because the boundaries of tallness cannot be clearly defined.

Therefore, degrees of tallness are set instead – they **range from 0 to 1** and cover all different kinds of heights. The principle is – **the higher the degree, the higher the height**. Zero stands for a person not *tall* to any degree, and one stands for someone who is *tall*. Everything in between shows that such a person is *tall* just to a certain degree, following the logic of the higher they are, the higher is the degree of their tallness. A graph with height on axis *x*, and tallness on axis *y* will show **a curve that rises continuously** (Lakoff 1973, 461–462). This relationship between height and degrees of tallness is demonstrated in Figure 2 below.

¹⁸ He admits that tallness is a relative concept itself.

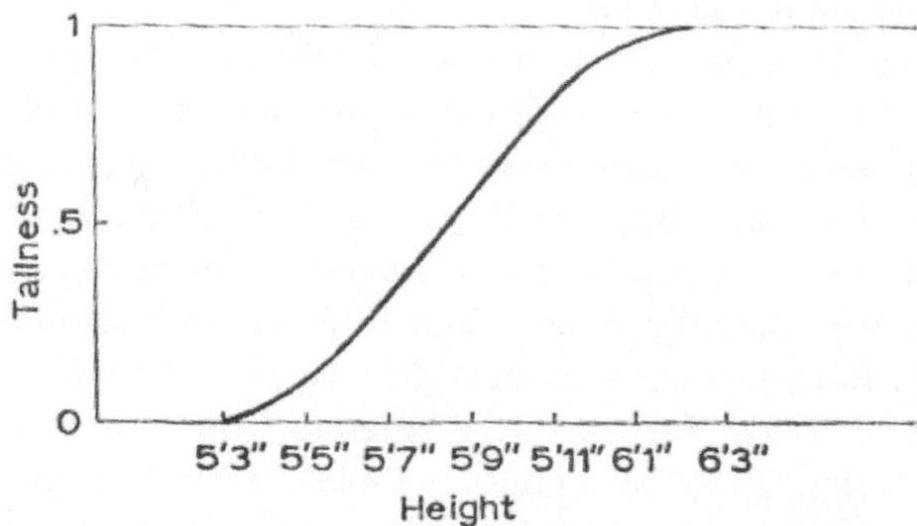


Figure 2: The curve for *tall* (Lakoff 1973, 462).

When the **predicate is modified**, the **degree of tallness changes**, therefore the shape of the curve changes with it. For instance, the intensifier *very* shifts the values to the right (and steepens the curve), as for a specific height, the value for *tall* would always be higher than for *very tall*. It means that a person of a specific height is *tall* to some degree, but keeping the same height, he is *very tall* to a smaller degree (Lakoff 1973, 471). This relationship is demonstrated in Figure 3.

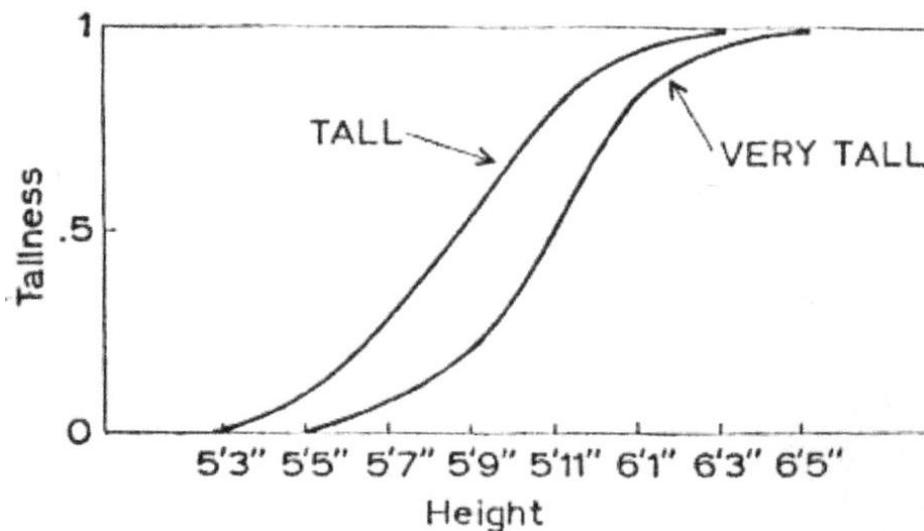


Figure 3: The curve for *very tall* in comparison to *tall* (Lakoff 1973, 464).

Lakoff places *sort of* into predicate modifiers as well, but he admits that it is rather a **deintensifier** which shifts the curve to the left and makes it less steep. This means that the highest value is achieved over an intermediate height. If we compare it to *tall*, then at a specific height the value for *sort of tall* is higher than for *tall*. However, whereas the curve for *tall* and *very tall* has a rising tendency, here the **curve rises until it reaches its top, and then it starts dropping back to zero again**. The position of the curve of *sort of tall* in the graph is demonstrated in Figure 4, as well as its distinct shape.

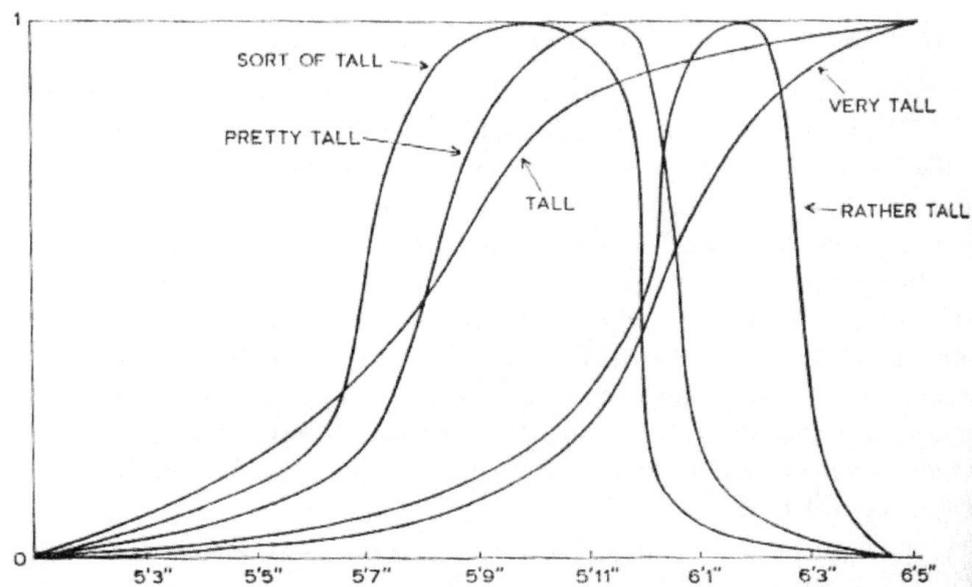


Figure 4: The curve for *sort of tall* in comparison to *tall*, *very tall* and other modifiers (Lakoff 1973, 482).

The peak of curve of *sort of tall* is on some medial value of tallness (a person who is *sort of tall* at its maximum degree is still smaller than a person who is *tall* to the same degree). All the smaller values than that indicate smaller degree of tallness, but above the intermediate height, there is a falling tendency, since a *sort of tall* person is no longer *sort of tall*, but rather *tall*. Therefore, with a rising height (after the peak), the degree to which the person is *sort of tall* gets sharply smaller, as it is no longer true (rather – true to an increasingly smaller degree) (Lakoff 1973, 471).

See Figure 4 again for the brief summary: when comparing the curves of *very tall* and *sort of tall* (to the basic curve of *tall*), two main differences can be observed, as **these modifiers have different influences on the degrees of truth**. Firstly, it is the position of the curves – *very* moves the curve to the right, whilst *sort of* moves it to the left. Hand in hand, the peaks of the curves are also positioned differently – the degree to which the sentence is true reaches its top either more on the right or more on the left, respectively. Secondly, the shape of the curve changes, too. With *very*, the curve merely rises, whereas with *sort of* it drops off sharply after reaching the top.

Words with such effects Lakoff calls “hedges”¹⁹ and defines them as “words, whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness – words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy” (1973, 471).

¹⁹ His perception of hedges is rather broad. On page 472, he presents a small list, but admits that it is far from complete.

3 Data and methods

In order to investigate the Czech equivalents of *sort of*, a **parallel corpus** was needed. Johansson defines parallel corpora as “collections of texts in two or more languages . . . in a translation relationship” (2007, 51). For the purposes of this thesis, I used **InterCorp** – a multilingual translation corpus that includes texts in 27 languages;²⁰ all the texts have a Czech counterpart (original or translation). The corpus includes what the authors call “**the core**” (fiction) and “collections” (Project Syndicate, Presseurop, Acquis Communautaire, Europarl) which include political commentaries or legal texts (InterCorp 2013). However, neither political, nor legal texts were relevant for this thesis.

For the purposes of this thesis, a subcorpus of 3,464,631 tokens in 42 works of fiction, written originally in English by American, British, and Canadian authors from 1914 onwards, was created. Translations from Czech to English, works by anonymous authors, projects, and works like essays, political speeches, and educational literature were eliminated.

3.1 Searching for *sort of* and its translations in InterCorp

The phrase *sort of* was set as a **query**. At the time the search was made, I was provided with **643 tokens** of *sort of* within the subcorpus. However, some of these tokens turned out to include two occurrences of *sort of* in that specific segment of text. Therefore, the actual number of tokens in the end is higher, specifically 658, that is the 643 original tokens plus **additional 15**.

²⁰ I worked with the version of InterCorp called “Release 5”, which includes 27 foreign languages. In the latest version of the corpus, “Release 6”, 31 languages are represented and more texts are included.

4 Data analysis

All **658 tokens of *sort of*** have been analysed and categorised. The first criterion is the syntax, or more specifically, whether *sort of* stands inside or outside the NP. The second criterion is the translations – further categorisations deal with various translations of *sort of*, separately for tokens inside and outside the NP.

4.1 A categorisation based on syntax

As stated above, tokens of *sort of* were divided into two groups – *sort of* inside the NP and *sort of* outside the NP. The first category, ***sort of* inside the NP**, includes tokens followed by nouns (possibly modified); the second category, ***sort of* outside the NP**, includes tokens followed by a verb phrase (VP), an adjectival phrase (AdjP), an adverbial phrase (AdvP), a prepositional phrase (PP), or nothing, that is *sort of* standing alone.

This division is highly uneven – 97 out of total 658 occurrences of *sort of* are outside the NP (= followed by a VP, an AdjP, an AdvP, a PP, or standing alone). The remaining 561 occurrences are inside the NP (= followed by nouns). Figure 5 below shows this division graphically.

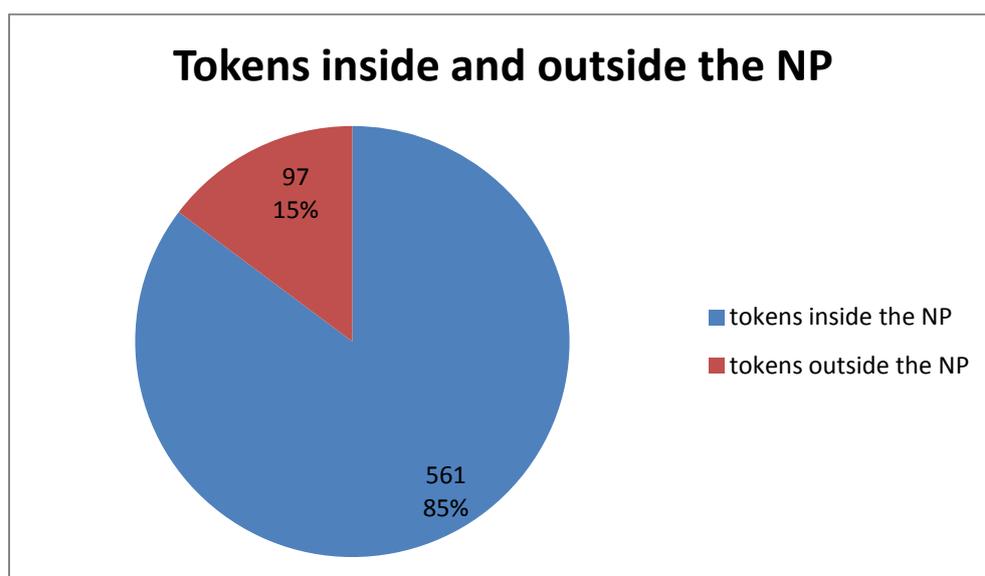


Figure 5: The distribution of *sort of* inside and outside the NP.

4.2 General observations

The analysis of all the tokens revealed an interesting **correlation between the author and the frequency** with which *sort of* was used. Some authors used *sort of* only very few times (never, once or twice) in their work(s), whilst others used it up to 79 times. More specifically, Toxin Cook is the only author who **did not use it even once**. The same applies for Virginia Woolf's *Between the Acts* (but in her other works, there are nine and eighteen occurrences of *sort of*). On the other hand, George Orwell and Kingsley Amis stand in the **forefront with 68 and 79 occurrences**, respectively.

In 22 out of total 42 works, the number of occurrences of *sort of* was lower than ten (including the two zeros). It means that in **52.38% of works**, *sort of* was used **less than ten times**, whereas the remaining 47.62% of works (20 out of 42) include more than ten occurrences of *sort of*. It follows that the distribution of *sort of* over the texts is very uneven, as the category with more than ten occurrences spreads over a much larger scale from ten to 80 than the one with zero to ten occurrences. Figure 6 presents the number of occurrences of *sort of* with respect to the number of works in which those tokens appear.

Number of occurrences of <i>sort of</i>	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-60	60-80
Number of works	22	6	6	6	0	2

Figure 6: Number of occurrences of *sort of* with respect to the number of works in which it appears.

Figure 6 further shows that: in six texts *sort of* appeared ten to 20 times, in other six texts it appeared 20 to 30 times, in other six texts it appeared 30 to 40 times, and lastly, in only two books did it appear 60 to 80 times. Interestingly, as can be seen from Figure 6, the two authors mentioned above with **over sixty uses are real extremes**, as none of the other authors

used *sort of* more than 36 times. Hence the gap with zero tokens in the category with 40 to 60 occurrences.

The categorisation of tokens of *sort of* into the uses internal and external to the NP with respect to authors and texts has also revealed an interesting **correlation** – the one **between the author and the use of *sort of* inside/ outside the NP**. The **majority** of authors **did not use *sort of* outside the NP** (preceding a VP, an AdjP, an AdvP, a PP, or standing alone), but rather inside the NP (preceding nouns that are possibly modified). Specifically, 16 out of 33 authors never used *sort of* outside the NP in their work(s). The remaining 17 authors used it in this position at least once (and up to 24 times in total, as in case of John Grisham).

Comparing the individual texts with the number of uses external to the NP, some interesting results emerge: *sort of* outside the NP was **not used at all in 17 works** (out of total 42, that is 40.48% of all works), and only in three works there were more than four occurrences. The remaining distribution is presented in Figure 7 below, which shows the number of occurrences of *sort of* outside the NP with respect to number of works in which it appears.

Number of occurrences of <i>sort of</i> outside the NP	0	1	2	3	4	more
Number of works	17	9	3	4	6	3

Figure 7: Number of occurrences of *sort of* outside the NP with respect to the number of works in which it appears.

Figure 7 further presents that in nine texts there was only one token of *sort of* outside the NP, then there were two occurrences in three texts, three occurrences in four texts, four occurrences in six texts, and more than four occurrences in three other texts. The last three works are rather marginal as for the number of tokens of *sort of* – Jonathan Franzen used *sort of* outside the NP **ten times**, Jayne Krentz **14 times**, John Grisham used it no fewer than **21 times** in his novel *The Client*. Such marginal numbers reveal a **gap** between these works and the maximum of four tokens in the other works.

There were only four works in which the **number of tokens** for *sort of* **outside the NP was higher than** of tokens **inside** the NP: Sandra Brown's *Hello, Darkness*, John Grisham's *The Client* and *The Partner*, and Chuck Palahniuk's *Choke*.

An interesting observation emerged from the **comparison of** the two previously analysed data sets (**the total frequency of use of *sort of* and the uses external to the NP**) – a higher frequency does not necessarily mean a higher number of uses outside the NP. For instance, George Orwell in his book used *sort of* 68 times altogether, but not even once outside the NP. On the other hand, out of five total occurrences in one of his works, John Grisham used *sort of* four times outside the NP and only once inside the NP. These findings testify the evident correlation between the author and the frequency/ the use of *sort of*. Figure 8 below provides detailed information about the distribution of *sort of* in the individual texts and among the authors in total.

	Number of occurrences of <i>sort of</i>	<i>Sort of</i> inside the NP	<i>Sort of</i> outside the NP
Adams, Douglas: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	26	22	4
Amis, Kingsley: Lucky Jim	79	75	4
Angell, Jeanette: Callgirl	33	29	4
Asimov, Isaac: The Caves of Steel	15	12	3
Asimov, Isaac: Reason	1	1	0
Asimov – total	16	13	3
Brown, Sandra: The Crush	2	2	0
Brown, Sandra: Hello, Darkness	3	1	2
Brown – total	5	3	2
Clarke, Arthur C.: Rendezvous with Rama	6	6	0
Cook, Robin: Toxin	0	0	0
Day, Cathy: The Circus in Winter	3	2	1
Doyle, Arthur Conan: His Last Bow	5	5	0
Fielding, Joy: Puppet	19	18	1
Fitzgerald, Francis Scott: The Diamond as Big as the Ritz	6	5	1
Fitzgerald, Francis Scott: The Great Gatsby	22	18	4
Fitzgerald – total	28	23	5
Franzen, Jonathan: The Corrections	24	14	10
Frost, Mark: The List of Seven	33	33	0

Grisham, John: The Street Lawyer	3	2	1
Grisham, John: The Brethren	12	9	3
Grisham, John: The Client	30	9	21
Grisham, John: The Partner	5	1	4
Grisham – total	50	21	29
Hailey, Arthur: The Final Diagnosis	9	8	1
Harris, Thomas: The Silence of the Lambs	9	6	3
Chandler, Raymond: The Man Who Liked Dogs	2	1	1
Chevalier, Tracy: Girl with a Pearl Earring	2	2	0
Irving, John: Widow for One Year	36	34	2
Ishiguro, Kazuo: An Artist of the Floating World	31	31	0
Joyce, James: Dubliners	1	1	0
Krentz, Jayne Ann: Falling Awake	31	17	14
Lawrence, David Herbert: The Virgin and the Gipsy	25	25	0
Lindsey, Johanna: A Loving Scoundrel	15	15	0
London, Jack: At the Rainbow's End	2	2	0
Ondaatje, Michael: The English Patient	1	1	0
Orwell, George: 1984	68	68	0
Palahniuk, Chuck: Choke	5	1	4
Di Robilant, Andrea: A Venetian Affair	12	12	0
Rowling, J.K.: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	20	19	1
Siddons, Anne Rivers: Hill Towns	28	25	3
Steel, Danielle: Second Chance	5	4	1
Steel, Danielle: Johnny Angel	2	0	2
Steel – total	7	4	3
Woolf, Virginia: Mrs Dalloway	18	17	1
Woolf, Virginia: <i>Between the Acts</i>	0	0	0
Woolf, Virginia: A Haunted House	9	9	0
Woolf – total	27	26	1

Figure 8: Distribution of *sort of* in the individual texts.

Figure 8 summarizes the total number of occurrences of *sort of* and the numbers of tokens in the uses internal and external to the NP. Some of the interesting facts discussed above are highlighted, such as zero occurrences of *sort of* in two texts (in orange), or the highest numbers for both the total frequency and *sort of* outside the NP (in blue).

4.3 Translation equivalents of *sort of* inside the NP

The translators dealt with *sort of* inside the NP in various ways. The most common way was a **translation** by a specific word or word phrases. However, the analysis of Czech sentences revealed that such specific translations were not always the output of the translation process. Sometimes the translation equivalent of *sort of* could not be identified because a **syntactic restructuring** took place, sometimes it was more or less deliberately **omitted**. Figure 9 below shows the distribution of *sort of* within each of the translation processes. The category of “**Missing clauses**” represents **three tokens** that were provided by the InterCorp but their equivalent Czech sentences were not.

	Translated	Omission	Syntactic restructuring	Missing clauses
Number of tokens of <i>sort of</i>	385	112	61	3

Figure 9: Distribution of *sort of* inside the NP within the different translation processes.

As for the tokens that were translated, *sort of* inside the NP was **translated in many different ways**. I have categorised the translations according to word classes of the words by which *sort of* was translated – that is nouns (specifically, type nouns), pronouns, adjectives, and other word classes and phrases.

According to Johansson (2007, 57), the different forms that translators have drawn make up the **translation paradigm**. He defines it as “forms in the target text which are found to correspond to particular words or constructions in the source text” (Johansson 2007, 56). Figure 10 below serves as a summary of all the possible ways of translating – it is a combination of Figure 9 above and the specific translation categories discussed in the previous paragraph.

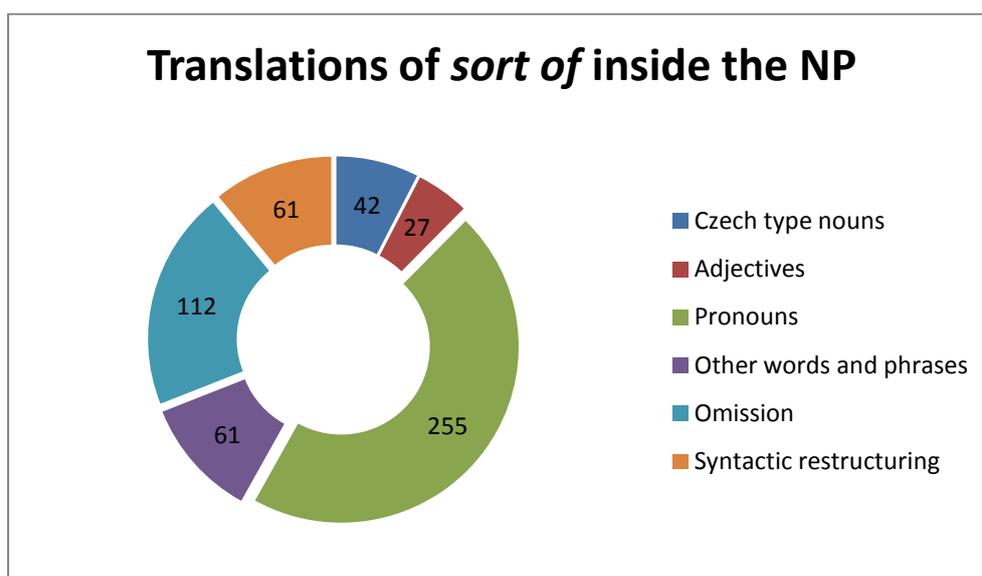


Figure 10: Ways of translating *sort of* inside the NP and the number of occurrences for each.

Figure 10 presents the specific categories of translations which include 558 tokens altogether (that is namely **42** tokens of Czech **type nouns**, **27** tokens of **adjectives**, **255** tokens of **pronouns**, and **61** tokens of **other words and phrases**) as well as the other ways of translating (**112** tokens that were **omitted** and **61** tokens that were part of the **syntactic restructuring**).

These 558 tokens do not include the three tokens from the category of “InterCorp error” discussed above because the only known fact about these tokens is that they are inside the NP. But as InterCorp has not provided equivalent Czech sentences, these tokens cannot hence say anything about the translation process.

Before discussing the Czech translations, it needs to be stated that, as Czech is an inflectional language, some of the equivalents take different forms in the sentences depending on case, person, number, and gender (e.g. *nějakého*, *takovýchto*). For that reason, all the words that were inflected in the translations will be used in their basic form – nominative, 1st person singular, masculine, e.g. *nějaký*, *takový* – in the descriptions of the individual categories of the translations.

4.4 *Sort of* translated by a Czech type noun

There were **42 tokens** of *sort of* inside the NP that were translated by a Czech type noun. Specifically, *sort* itself was translated by a Czech type noun. This is demonstrated in Figure 11.

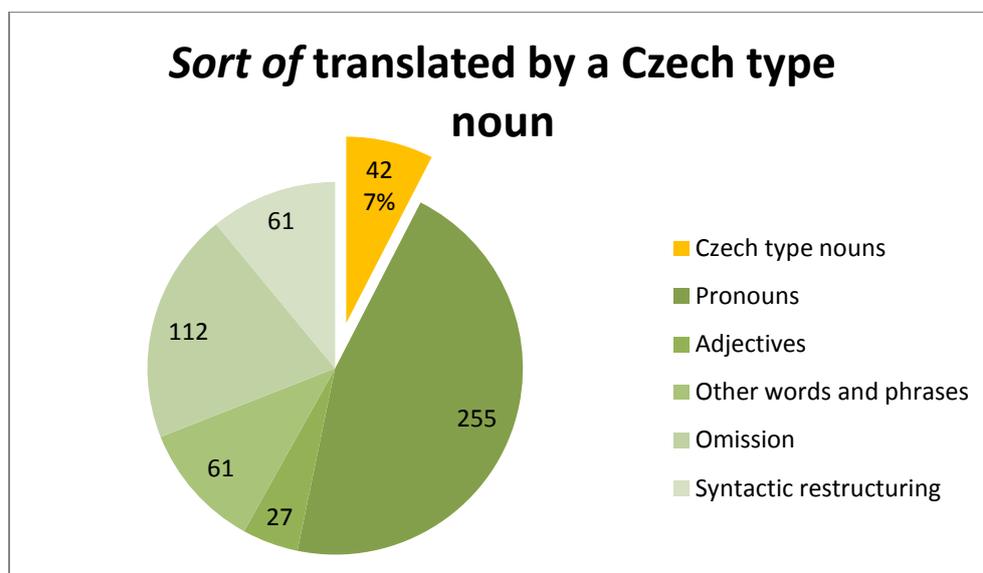


Figure 11: *Sort of* translated by a Czech type noun.

Figure 11 provides the number of tokens that were translated by a Czech type noun in proportion to the other categories. These 42 tokens represent **7.22% of all tokens** of *sort of* inside a NP.

The translation of *sort* by a type noun reflects the fact that ***sort* is the head noun**. As such, it is followed by an *of*-phrase with a specific N2, as in (29):

(29) O Axonu Gary nevěděl vůbec nic, ale Orfic Midland byl takový ten *typ* konglomerátu, jehož jednotlivé holdingové společnosti a nejvyšší vedení spolu dokázaly držet krok.

Gary knew nothing of Axon, but Orfic Midland was the *sort* of conglomerate whose holdings and management structure he was paid to stay abreast of. (Franzen)

In (29), *sort* is translated by *typ* which reflects its **full lexical use**, and expresses a subclass of the superordinate class of N2 which is a part of the *of*-phrase. This makes it equivalent to the basic **binominal construction** described in the theoretical preliminaries in 2.1.1.1.

There were five cases in which N2 was **modified by an adjective** which preceded *sort*, as in (30):

- (30) Vyšel na Druhou avenue a rychle našel levnější *druh* restaurace.
He went out on Second Avenue and quickly located a cheaper *sort* of restaurant. (Irving)

Cheaper/ levnější in (30) represents an **attributive modifier** ascribing the quality to the subtype of the N2²¹, as it was described in the theoretical preliminaries in the characterisation of the binominal construction (2.1.1.1). Interestingly, four out of five of these modifications come under tokens by John Irving.

If the **determiners** in this category were translated, then the **translations** were “**independent**” of *sort of*. What I mean by “independent” will be demonstrated on (29): the determiner *the* was translated as *takový ten*, and remained “independent” of *sort of*, in which *sort* was translated separately as *typ*. As will be seen later, such “independent” translation was not always the case – there will be cases where *sort of* was translated together with its determiner – for instance *nějaký* as an equivalent for *some sort of*, or *jaký* as an equivalent of *what sort of*. This is what makes the difference between (31a) and (31b).

- (31) (a) „Jaký *druh* energie?“
“What *sort* of energy?” (Frost)

²¹ Davidse, Brems and De Smedt 2008,145.

(b) „*Jaký* zvuk to byl, Rutinko?“ zeptal se otec.

“*What sort of* a sound was it, Ruthie?” her father asked. (Irving)

Whilst in (31a), both the determiner and the type noun have translations on their own (*what*= *jaký* and *sort*= *druh*), in (31b), the whole phrase *what sort of* is translated as *jaký*. Following the theoretical preliminaries, this use is equivalent to the postdeterminer construction described in 2.1.2.1 and in such *what* and *sort of* form a **complex determiner**. This is further supported by the fact that the N2 has an indefinite article.

The type nouns used in the translations were *druh*, *typ*, *způsob*, and *forma*, and they are presented in Figure 12.

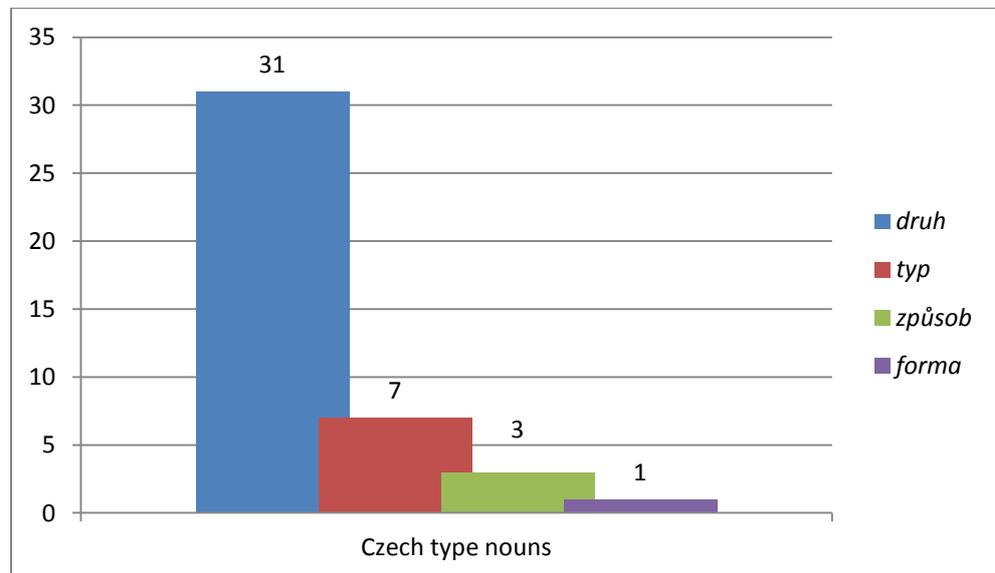


Figure 12: Translations with Czech type nouns and the number of their occurrences.

What follows from Figure 12 is that ***druh* was the most frequent** type noun used as an equivalent of *sort* in this type of construction. It occurred 31 times, *typ* occurred 7 times, *způsob* was used 3 times, and *forma* was a unique translation. Examples of the most frequent *druh* and *typ* were demonstrated already in (29) – *typ*, (30) – *druh*, and (31a) – *druh* again. Example (32) thus demonstrates another Czech type noun – *způsob*.

- (32) „Pochybuju, že vám tenhle *způsob* meziplanetárního násilí projde.“
 “I doubt if this *sort* of interstellar rape will be tolerated.”

(Asimov, Caves)

4.5 *Sort of* translated by a pronoun

Translations of *sort of* by a pronoun form by far the biggest category – it includes **255 out of total 558** occurrences of *sort of* inside the NP, that is **40.32%**. A big **variety of pronouns** turned out to be used in these translations. The basic division that can be made after analysing this category of translations is based on the type of the pronoun. The Czech pronouns used for the purposes of translations were: **indefinite** pronouns, **demonstrative** pronouns, **relative and interrogative** pronouns, and **negative** pronouns. Figure 13 shows the proportion of different types of pronouns within this category as a sector of all translations of *sort of* inside the NP.

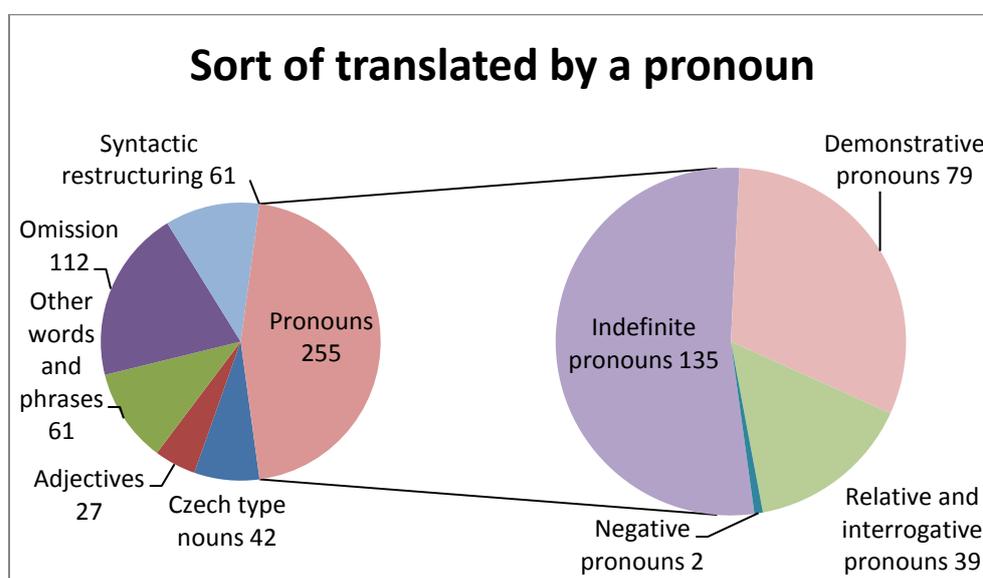


Figure 13: Categories of pronouns by which *sort of* was translated.

Figure 13 shows that out of 255 translations by pronouns, 135 were indefinite, 79 demonstrative, 39 relative and interrogative, and the remaining two were negative pronouns.

All these types of pronouns as equivalents were **used in two different ways** – either they translate just *sort of* or they substitute both *sort of* and the noun that follows it – that is N2, in which case the N2 does not have any other translation equivalent. For further reference, I will differentiate between these uses as **translations not comprising N2**, an example of which is (33), and **translations comprising N2**, demonstrated in (34), respectively.

- (33) *Že má nějaké mechanické časovací zařízení.*
That it has *some sort of* mechanical timing device. (Frost)
- (34) *Nedokázala přenést přes srdce, že by v ní Sylvie viděla někoho, kdo patří na palubu B.*
She couldn't bear to be seen by Sylvia as a "B" Deck *sort of person*.
(Franzen)

4.5.1 Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns form the **biggest subcategory** of all Czech equivalents with pronouns, specifically, **135 indefinite pronouns** were found during the analysis of tokens. That equals **52.94%** of all translations with pronouns. In 113 cases, *sort of* itself was substituted by specific indefinite pronouns (translations not comprising N2), and in the remaining 22 cases, the phrase [*sort of* + N2] as a whole was translated by specific indefinite pronouns (translations comprising N2).

4.5.1.1 Translations not comprising N2

The category of translations not comprising N2 includes **these indefinite pronouns**: *jakýsi*, *nějaký*, *jakýkoli*, and phrases including *něco/ cosi* or *někdo* (*něco jako*, *něco na způsob*, *něco, cosi na způsob*, *něco na ten způsob*, *někdo jako*). The **total number** of such translations is **113**. Figure 14 shows

the number of occurrences for each of these indefinite pronouns (or phrases) separately.

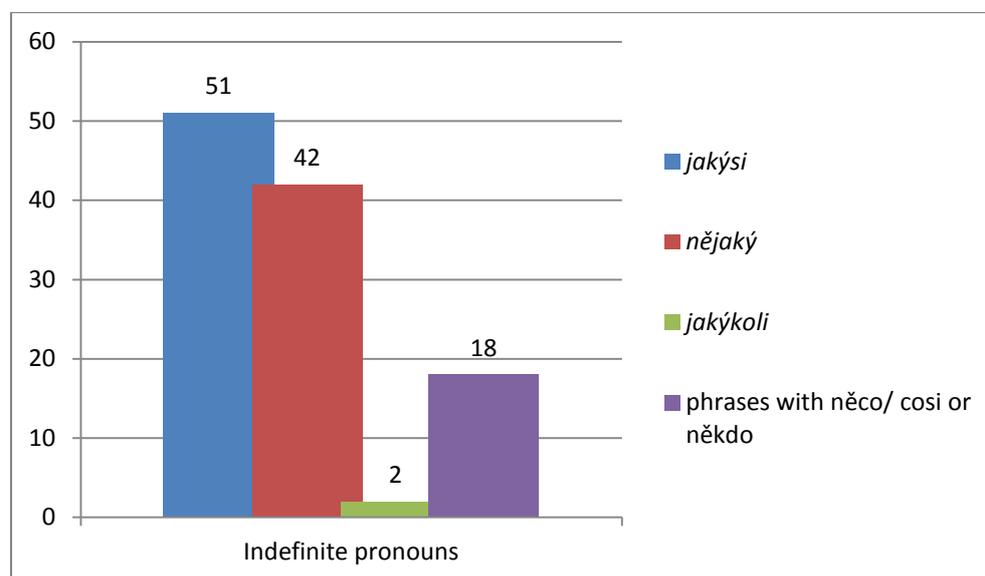


Figure 14: Various Czech indefinite pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their number of occurrences in the category of translations not comprising N2.

For each of these pronouns, the determiners preceding *sort of* were examined as well. This revealed some interesting **correlations between the Czech pronouns and English determiners before *sort of***.

As shown in Figure 14, *jakýsi* was the most frequent of the indefinite pronouns. All in all, this translation appeared **51 times**. In the majority of cases (44 out of total 51, that is **86.27%**) *sort of* was **preceded by the indefinite article**, as in (35).

(35) Newspeak je Angsoc a Angsoc je newspeak, dodal s *jakýmsi* tajuplným uspokojením.

Newspeak is Ingsoc and Ingsoc is Newspeak, he added with *a sort of* mystical satisfaction. (Orwell)

Surprisingly, 34 of such occurrences of *a sort of* translated as *jakýsi* were used by only three authors/ translators. The authors were specifically

Francis Scott Fitzgerald with 10 tokens, George Orwell with 19 tokens, and Virginia Woolf with 5. It means that only the remaining nine occurrences of *a sort of* were used by some other authors.

Nevertheless, the indefinite article was not the only determiner used with *sort of* that was translated as *jakýsi*. The other one was *some* (e.g. in (36), which appeared 6 times altogether.

(36) Zdvihl *jakýsi* nástroj, který ležel před kotlem na zemi, a jeho pomocí odstrčil dvířka.

He picked up *some sort of* tool from the floor in front of it and shoved the lid aside. (Amis)

The last determiner preceding *sort of* translated as *jakýsi* was the **definite article**, as in (37). However, such situation appeared **only once**.

(37) „Myslím,“ řekla Lucille, „že je *jakási hrubá pohlavnost*, a pak jiná, ne tak hrubá.“

“I suppose,” said Lucille, “there’s *the low sort of sex*, and there’s the other sort, that isn’t low.” (Lawrence)

Besides, in (37), the determiner was a part of the construction [**determiner + adjective(s)**²² + *sort of* + N2]. As discussed in the theoretical preliminaries, such construction is **equivalent to the descriptive modifier construction** described in 2.1.2.3 in which, by definition, there is a qualitative adjective which modifies the N2²³, not the type noun. Nevertheless, such placement of an adjective appeared only twice, yet by a single author – D. H. Lawrence. Normally, the adjective was placed before N2, as in (35) – *a sort of mystical satisfaction*, which is repeated below as (38):

²² The modification of N2 can be expressed by one or more adjectives.

²³ Brems and Davidse 2010, 187.

(38) Newspeak je Angsoc a Angsoc je newspeak, dodal s *jakýmsi tajuplným uspokojením*.

Newspeak is Ingsoc and Ingsoc is Newspeak, he added with *a sort of mystical satisfaction*. (Orwell)

However, this difference in placing the adjective (before and after *sort of*) is not reflected in the Czech translations. Both the translations of (37), *jakási hrubá pohlavnost*, and (38), *s jakýmsi tajuplným uspokojením*, placed the adjective after the Czech indefinite pronoun, whereas the original sentences swap the positions of *sort of* and the adjective.

The second most frequent pronoun *sort of* was translated by was *nějaký*. This translation occurred **42 times** altogether and the English phrases included either *some* or *any* or an indefinite article. However, the proportion is very uneven here – in 38 out of these 42 occurrences of *nějaký* (that is in 90.48% cases) the **determiner** was *some*, as in (39).

(39) *Že má nějaké mechanické časovací zařízení.*

That it has *some sort of* mechanical timing device. (Frost)

Four other phrases with *nějaký* as a translation equivalent were equally divided between *any sort of* and *a sort of*, examples of which are (40) and (41) below.

(40) „Modrá je lepší,“ říká máma, „aspoň pro místnost, kde do sebe člověk chce cpát *nějaké* jídlo.“

“Blue is better,” my mom says, “for a room you're going to put *any sort of* food in.” (Palahniuk)

(41) Zase jsem měl na jazyku *nějakou* omluvu.

Again *a sort of* apology arose to my lips. (Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

There was one occurrence of *nějaký* that had an **identical construction** as *jakýsi* in (37), that is [determiner + adjective(s) + *sort of* + N2]. Again, it was used by D. H. Lawrence. Example (42) demonstrates this type of construction construction with *nějaký*.

- (42) Kdyby si ji tak chtěl vzít *nějaký hrozně milý, protektorský, hodný člověk*, který by jí dělal ochránce!
Oh, if some awfully nice, kind, protective sort of man would but marry her! (Lawrence)

What is interesting is that there were only five tokens by D. H. Lawrence translated with indefinite pronouns, and three of them appeared just in this construction (with either *jakýsi* or *nějaký*).

The third most frequent translation equivalents were those including the Czech pronouns *něco/ cosi or někdo*. These pronouns occurred as **parts of phrases** and were further postmodified (with only one exception – *něco* standing alone). There were **18 such expressions** altogether and they are specifically: *něco jako, něco na způsob, něco, cosi na způsob, něco na ten způsob*, and *někdo jako*. The only phrases that **reoccurred** were *něco jako* (eleven times) and *něco na způsob* (three times), all the others were each used just once.

Contrary to the previous translations by *jakýsi* and *nějaký*, these phrases are not that tightly bound to the determiners. *Něco jako*, for instance, appeared with three different determiners (including no determiner) with no significant preference to either. What these phrases have in common, after all, is the fact that their determiners were either an indefinite article, *some* or no determiner.

The last indefinite pronoun to be examined is *jakýkoli*. It only appeared **twice** and the determiner was either *any* or *every*. One of the sentences is presented in (43):

(43) „Se svou inteligencí a temperamentem může žít téměř *jakýkoliv* způsobem života, pro jaký se rozhodne.“

"With her intelligence and temperament, she can probably have almost *any sort of* life she wants. (Siddons)

4.5.1.2 Translations comprising N2

There were **22 tokens** of *sort of* that comprised their N2 in the translations. The most frequent of which is the phrase *něco takového* that appeared 13 times, the remaining nine translations include indefinite pronouns: *někdo*, *něco podobného*, *leccos*, *tak něco*, *něco*, and *cosi*. Figure 15 below provides more information about the distribution of translations in this subcategory.

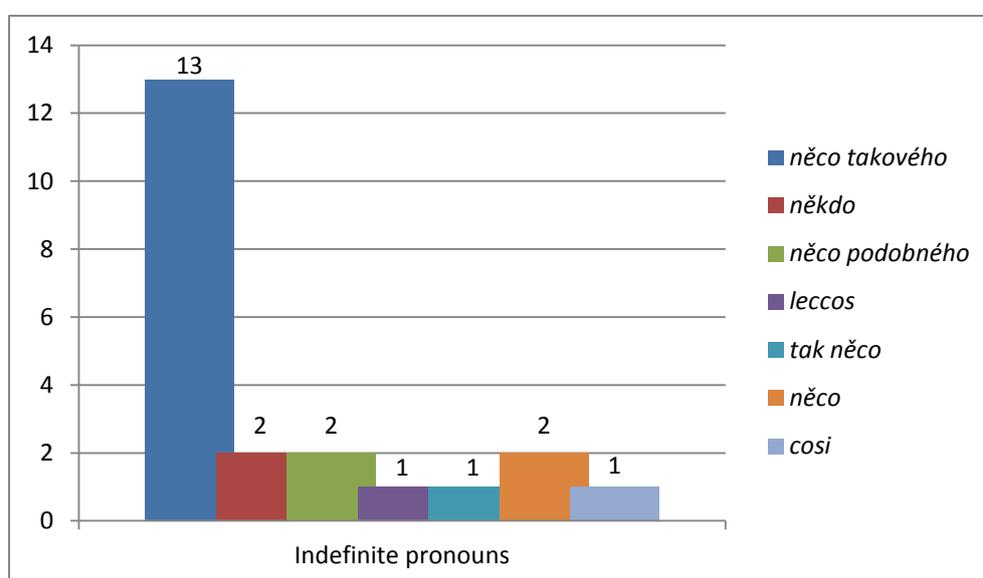


Figure 15: Various Czech indefinite pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their number of occurrences in the category of translations comprising N2.

Figure 15 shows a **significant gap** between the 13 occurrences of *něco takového* and one or two occurrences of the other expressions.

Translations with indefinite pronouns that included N2 from the original phrase represent the fact that N2 itself is also substituted by the phrase with the indefinite pronoun. This is demonstrated in (44).

(44) Zpěvák, trochu bledší než obvykle, se pořád usmíval a říkal, že nemyslel nic zlého; ale Jack na něj křičel dál, že každému chlapovi, který by si *něco takového* dovolil na jeho sestru, vyrazí všechny zuby naráz; a udělal by to.

The music hall artiste, a little paler than usual, kept smiling and saying that there was no harm meant; but Jack kept shouting at him that if any fellow tried *that sort of a game* on with his sister he'd bloody well put his teeth down his throat: so he would. (Joyce)

In (44), the **N2 of the original phrase** – *a game* **becomes a part of the translation** with the indefinite pronoun, *něco takového*, in the parallel Czech translation. To be more specific, the whole phrase *that sort of a game*, that is [determiner + *sort of* + N2], was substituted by the phrase *něco takového*. Such a translation expresses a certain **reference** – whereas the English **original is specific**, the **Czech translation with *něco takového* is not specific**, but rather **general**, as it refers to the certain N2, which is known from the context but not specifically mentioned. Furthermore, example (44) also demonstrates the type of phrase in which the **indefinite article was inserted** in front of N2 – *that sort of a game*.

Example (45) represents one of the less frequent indefinite pronouns – *někdo*. In this example, the N2 of the original sentence was again a part of the translation by the indefinite pronoun – *někdo* substitutes both *sort of* and *person* (N2).

(45) Nedokázala přenést přes srdce, že by v ní Sylvie viděla *někoho*, kdo patří na palubu B.

She couldn't bear to be seen by Sylvia as a "B" Deck *sort of person*.

(Franzen)

This category turned out to be strongly influenced by the phrase [**determiner + *sort of* + *thing/ stuff***] found in the original sentences. Out of total 22 tokens of translations in this category, 16 were in English

represented by this phrase – there were, specifically, 14 tokens of *sort of thing*, and two tokens of *sort of stuff* – this makes *thing* the most frequent N2 to be translated in this way. Hence, examples (44) and (45), which include specific N2s different than *thing/ stuff*, represent two out of only seven cases which originally did not include *thing* or *stuff*. The determiners in this phrase were either the definite article or one of the demonstrative pronouns *that* or *this*.

In addition to that, in case of [determiner + *sort of + thing/ stuff*], the **translation remains as general as the original sentence**. This is demonstrated in (46) in which *that sort of stuff* is equally non-specific as the equivalent *něco takového* – both these expressions refer to something known from the context which is not specified in the sentence.

(46) „Snad si nemyslíte, že beru *něco takového* vážně?“

“You don't think I take *that sort of stuff* seriously, do you?” (Amis)

Comparing the two subgroups of indefinite pronouns (not comprising N2 and comprising N2), an interesting difference in **the role of determiners** emerges. On the one hand, in case of translations not comprising N2 there proved to be a strong correlation between the most frequent indefinite pronouns and the determiners preceding *sort of*, for instance *nějaký* as an equivalent for *some sort of*, and *jakýsi* for *a sort of*.

On the other hand, there was no such correlation relevant to indefinite pronouns comprising N2 (except the most frequent *něco takového* in which case the original *sort of* was preceded by the definite article or demonstrative pronouns). Here, various determiners preceded *sort of* with no specific relation to the equivalent Czech translation. This is also because all the Czech equivalents here (except *něco takového*) appeared only once or twice and hence it cannot be said that the determiners in the original phrases would influence the translations.

4.5.2 Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns form the second largest subcategory of the translations with pronouns. Altogether, there were **79 tokens** of *sort of* that were translated with demonstrative pronouns, that is **30.98%** of all translations with pronouns. Within this subcategory of pronouns, the same subdivision will be made as was made in case of indefinite pronouns (only with different numbers) – in 59 cases, the translations substituted just *sort of* (translations not comprising N2), and in 20 cases, the whole phrase [*sort of* + N2] was translated by a specific demonstrative pronoun.

4.5.2.1 Translations not comprising N2

These translations can be divided into two groups – one is formed by *takový* and its derived forms, such as *takovýto* or *takovýhle*, and the other is centred around *tento* and its forms, such as *tenhle* or *ten*. Not only did *takový*/*takovýhle* appear more frequently, as is shown in Figure 16, but it also showed a bigger variety in the determiners that preceded *sort of* in the original sentences.

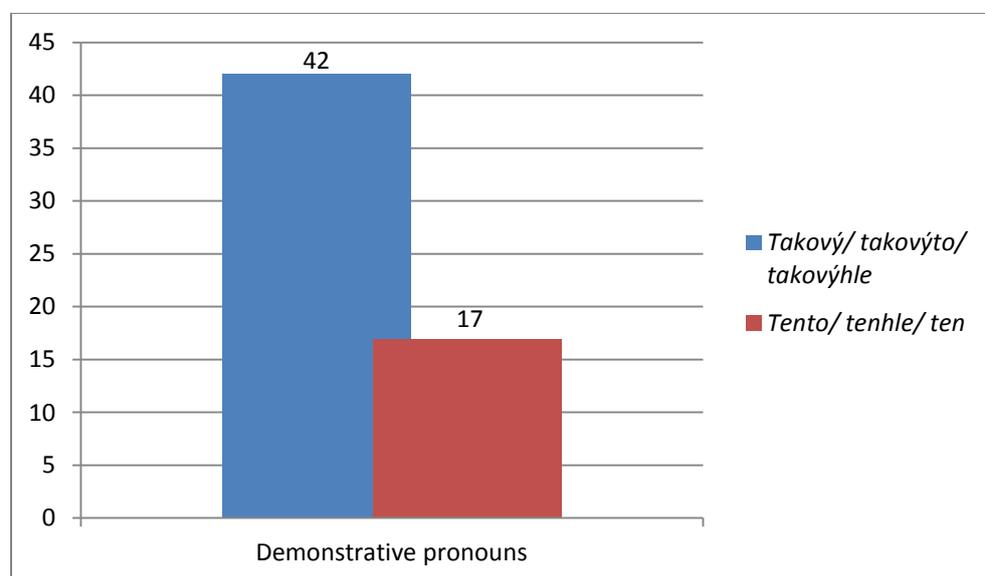


Figure 16: Two groups of demonstrative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their number of occurrences in the category of translations not comprising N2.

Figure 16 presents the two groups of Czech demonstrative pronouns by which *sort of* was translated. The proportion of *takový/ takovýto/ takovýhle* to *tento/ tenhle/ ten* is 42 to 17.

Czech equivalents *takový/ takovýto/ takovýhle* occurred **42 times** altogether and in the original sentences, *sort of* was mostly preceded by demonstrative pronouns (22 times) or the definite article (16 times). Only once was there no determiner and three times an indefinite article. Examples (47) and (48) show different **demonstrative pronouns** as determiners.

(47) Ale bylo spravedlivé dostat ji do *takové* situace po všem, co prodělala?

But was it fair to her to implicate her in *this sort of* situation after all she'd had to put up with? (Amis)

(48) V *takovýchhle* řečech jsem nikdy nevynikala.

I was never good at *that sort of* talk. (Chevalier)

Examples (49) and (50) both include the **definite article** as a determiner. Furthermore, (50) also demonstrates that even proper nouns can enter the constructions with *sort of*.

(49) *Takový* sen se lidem často zdá.

It's *the sort of* dream people often have. (Asimov, Caves)

(50) Proto si vymyslel právě *takového* Jay Gatsbyho, jakého si asi může vymyslet sedmnáctiletý hoch, a tomuto pojetí zůstal věren až do konce.

So he invented just *the sort of* Jay Gatsby that a seventeen year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end. (Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

The group of translations by demonstrative pronouns *tento/ tehle/ ten* only appeared as translations of *sort of* preceded by demonstrative pronouns and the definite article, no other determiners appeared here. The proportion of the determiners is more in favour of demonstrative pronouns – out of total 17 occurrences of *sort of*, it was preceded by a **demonstrative pronoun** 11 times (there were five occurrences of *this* and six occurrences of *that*) and 6 times by the **definite article**. Examples (51) and (52) demonstrate these translations with different determiners in the original sentences.

(51) Uvědomoval si ovšem - neboť Harry Tomaselli byl velmi spravedlivý člověk - že *tento* přístup je častý u lidí, kteří svou práci berou opravdu vážně.

He reflected, though - Harry Tomaselli was, above all, a fair-minded man - that *this sort of* attitude was often found in people who took their jobs seriously. (Hailey)

(52) Ve spárech neurčitých, ale mocných obav pospíšil Dixon do hudební školy, kde k svému překvapení našel Barclayho, který nejen projevil ochotu, ale dokonce vlastnil přesně *onu* knihu, kterou Dixon potřeboval.

A prey to vague but powerful misgiving, Dixon hurried out and over to the Music School, where, to his surprise, Barclay proved to be present, available, co-operative, and in possession of just *the sort of* book Dixon wanted. (Amis)

Example (52) shows the most unique Czech demonstrative pronoun used in the translations – *ona*. *Ona* in Czech can either be a personal or a demonstrative pronoun. Only context (and perhaps inflection) reveals its function. Here, it serves as a demonstrative pronoun similar to *ta*.

This category of translations also included cases when the adjective was placed before *sort of* (rather than in front of N2, thus after *sort of*,

which repeatedly proved more frequent). Such construction in the pattern of [**determiner** + **adjective(s)** + **sort of** + **N2**] appeared already in the category of indefinite pronouns (4.5.1). Here, it appeared twice – once with *takový/ takovýto/ takovýhle* and once with *tento/ tenhle/ ten*. Example (53) demonstrates this type of construction with *takový*.

- (53) „Bylo to jen- vidíš přece sám, proč je to *takovým příšerným způsobem* komické, ne?“
“It's just- you can see why it's funny, in *an awful sort of way*, can't you?” (Siddons)

Once, there was a situation in which the modification was not expressed by an adjective, but rather a “nonce expression”. This difference in the modification corresponds with the difference between the attributive modifier use of the type noun and the semi-suffix use of the type noun described in the theoretical preliminaries in 2.1.2.3, The descriptive modifier construction. Whereas (53) represents the **attributive modifier use** with a qualitative adjective as the element preceding *sort of*, (54) represents the **semi-suffix use** of the type noun with a “nonce expression” as the preceding element. By definition of this use, the element preceding the type noun is of a more classifying nature and can be of varying length, which is the case in (54).

- (54) Manželka a prostřední syn si vyměnili pohledy, jako by to byla jedna z *těch neuvěřitelně tupých otázek*, jimiž je Gary proslulý široko daleko.
His wife and middle son traded glances as if this were *the stick-in-the-mud sort of question* he was famous for. (Franzen)

Both *takový/ takovýto/ takovýhle* and *tento/ tenhle/ ten* in this category of translations were influenced highly by the phrase [**determiner** + **sort of** + **thing**] – *thing* as N2 appeared 23 times out of all 42 tokens, that is

54.76% of all N2s were the noun *thing*. The N2= *thing* was either translated in its literal meaning as *věci* (in 14 cases), or its meaning was made explicit in the Czech translation (in nine cases). This is reflected in (55a) and (55b), respectively.

- (55) (a) Úžasná pochoutka, pokud máš rád tyhle věci.
 It's delicious if you happen to like that sort of thing. (Adams)
- (b) „Právě kvůli takovým nesmyslům ještě prohrájeme!“
 “That's exactly the sort of thing that'll lose us the match!”
 (Rowling)

4.5.2.2 Translations comprising N2

The Czech equivalents in this category were the same as in the translations not comprising N2, just the proportion has turned around, which is clear from Figure 17 below.

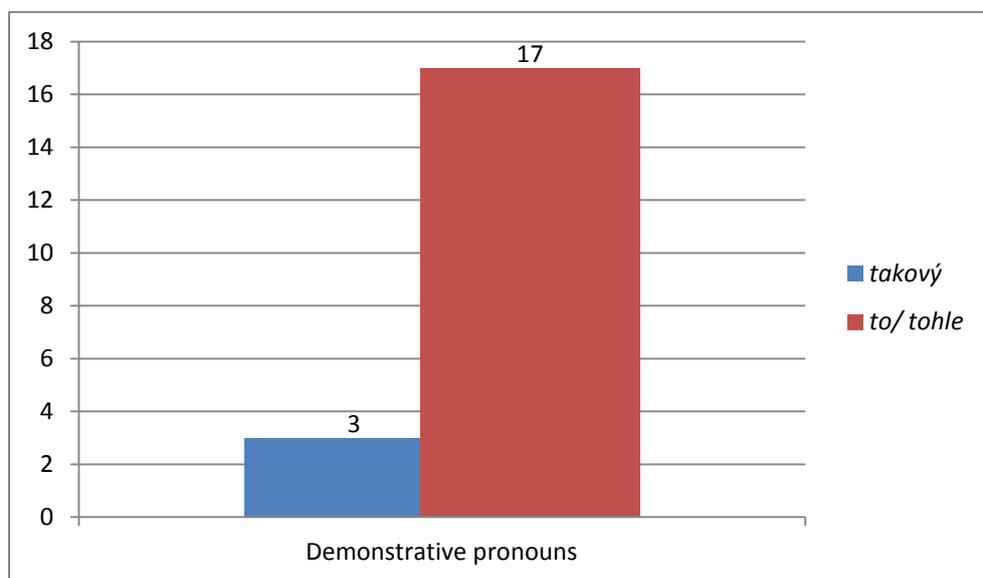


Figure 17: Two groups of demonstrative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their number of occurrences in the category of translations comprising N2.

Figure 17 shows that *takový* appeared only three times (twice with *that* as a determiner, once with *the*), whereas *to/ tohle* appeared 17 times. Another

difference besides the inverse proportion is in the form of the Czech pronoun in the category *to/ tohle* – whereas translations not comprising N2 included the plural and both masculine and feminine forms (*tyhlety, ten, tato*), here, the **neuter is the predominant form** (as indicated by *to/ tohle* in the graph and in the text). Example (56) demonstrates one of the less frequent translations by *takový*, and examples in (57) show the translations with *to/ tohle*.

(56) Když to tak vezmeš, jsem vlastně *taková*, jak vypadám.
Actually I am *that sort of girl*, to look at. (Orwell)

(57) (a) Odmítnout však nesměl; pro Welche *to* mohl být důležitější zkušební kámen jeho schopností než přednáška o Blaženém věku alžbětinské Anglie.

Still, he daren't refuse; *this sort of task* might easily, to Welch, seem a more important test of ability than the merit of the Merrie England lecture. (Amis)

(b) Ale nepatřil k *těm*, které člověk musí respektovat - což bylo štěstí.

But not *the sort of man* one had to respect - which was a mercy.
(Woolf, Dalloway)

Example (57a) also demonstrates that the **Czech equivalent is neutral** (*to*), whereas the original expression was specific (*task*). (57b) demonstrates that equivalents with *to/ tohle* do not concern inanimate object only. Translations referring to people, as *ti* here, occurred twice.

When it comes to the number of the tokens that included *thing* as the N2, that is *sort of* as a part of the phrase [**determiner + sort of + thing**], this category of translations turned out extraordinary – out of 20 tokens of *sort of* in this category, 12 were part of this phrase, that is 60%. *This sort of thing* was translated by one of the Czech demonstrative pronouns, as in (58):

(58) „Určitě na *to* mají něco jako kancelář.“

“Don't they have an agency for *this sort of thing*?”

(Lindsey)

4.5.3 Relative and interrogative pronouns

The category of translations by relative and interrogative pronouns includes **39 tokens** – that is 15.29% of all translations with pronouns. This category is represented by **just two Czech pronouns** – *jaký* and *co*.

4.5.3.1 Relative pronouns

As indicated above, the only two relative pronouns that *sort of* was translated by were *jaký* and *co*. The total **number of tokens** of relative pronouns is **21**. Their distribution is shown in Figure 18.

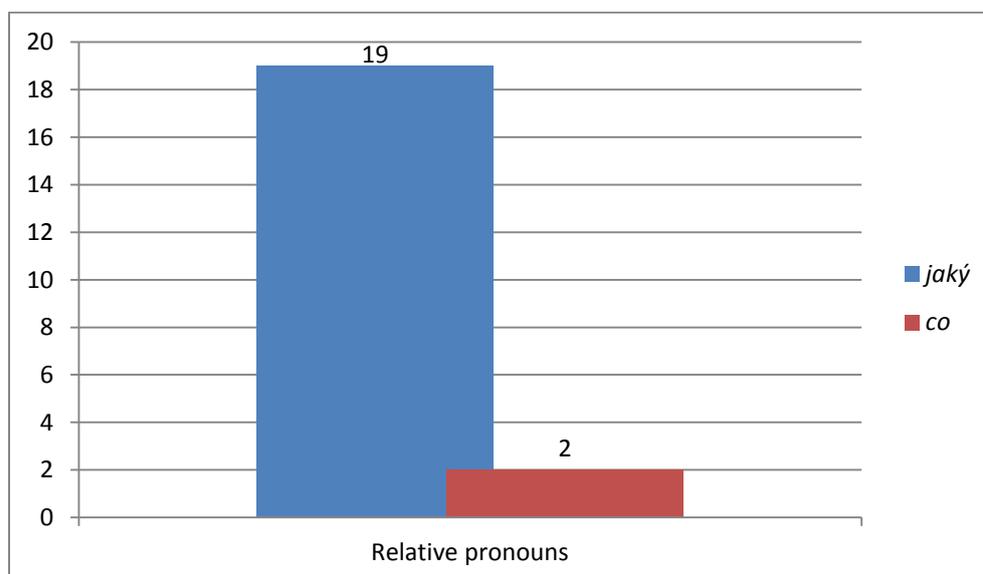


Figure 18: Relative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their numbers of occurrences.

Figure 18 shows that *jaký* was **much more frequent** than *co* which might even be considered marginal here – there were 19 tokens of *jaký* and only two tokens of *co*.

The original phrases translated by the relative pronoun *jaký* turned out to have a **significant correlation** between *sort of* and the determiner. The determiners preceding *sort of* in this case were *what* and both the articles. Whereas *what* as a determiner prevailed with 15 occurrences, the

definite article appeared less frequently – three times, and the indefinite article occurred only once. Examples in (59) show *sort of* translated by *jaký* with two different determiners that appeared in the original phrase – *what* in (59a) as the most frequent determiner, and *the* in (59b) as one of the less frequent.

- (59) (a) Seděla jsem v pokoji londýnské studentské koleje, hleděla na poznámky k zítřejší dopolední přednášce a nervovala se obavami, jakou bude moje přednáška mít odezvu v jiné kultuře, *jaké* otázky mi posluchači budou klást, a tak podobně .

I sat in the dormitory in London staring at my notes for the following mornings lecture, and I felt nervous about how the lecture would go over in another culture, *what sort of* questions people would be asking me, that sort of thing. (Angell)

- (b) Vzpomínal si, s *jakým* úděsným vzrušením je koutkem oka sledoval.

He remembered *the sort of* terrified fascination with which he had watched them out of the corner of his eye. (Orwell)

As for the other relative pronoun, *co*, *sort of* was once preceded by *what* and once by *the*, which can hardly be marked as a significant correlation. Examples in (60) show the only two tokens of *co*, each with a different determiner in the original phrase.

- (60) (a) „A dovedete si představit, *co* to bylo za...“

“And you can guess *what sort of* a...” (Amis)

- (b) „Jestli je lepší, než *co* by člověk obvykle napsal, aby si udržel místo.“

“Anything beyond *the sort of thing* that'll help you to keep your job?” (Amis)

The major difference between *jaký* and *co* is that *jaký* was used **in translations not comprising N2** (with only one exception), whereas the two occurrences of *co* were equally divided among translations comprising and not comprising N2. Example (61a) shows *sort of* translated as *jaký* when N2 is not comprised, example (61b) shows the only case in which *sort of* as *jaký* did comprise N2.

- (61) (a) Teprve když mi vysvětlil, *jakou* restauraci vlastně myslí, zaujal mě a slíbil jsem, že udělám všechno, abych mu pomohl.
It was only when he told me just *what sort of* place he had in mind that I became sufficiently impressed and promised I would do what I could to help him. (Ishiguro)
- (b) A věděla také, *jakou* chce Porter.
She knew *what sort of woman* Wallace Porter desired. (Day)

Examples (62a) and (62b) demonstrate the translations with *co* – not comprising and comprising N2, respectively.

- (62) (a) „A dovedete si představit, *co* to bylo za...“
“And you can guess *what sort of* a...” (Amis)
- (b) „Jestli je lepší, než *co* by člověk obvykle napsal, aby si udržel místo.“
“Anything beyond *the sort of thing* that'll help you to keep your job?”²⁴ (Amis)

To summarise **the distribution of relative pronouns in both types of translations**, Figure 19 is presented.

²⁴ The same examples were used above in (60) demonstrating the different determiners, since these two sentences are the only ones in which *sort of* was translated by a relative pronoun *co*.

The relative pronoun	Translations not comprising N2	Translations comprising N2
<i>Jaký</i>	18	1
<i>Co</i>	1	1
Total	19	2

Figure 19: Distribution of relative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* in both types of translations.

Figure 19 shows that translations not comprising N2 included 18 occurrences of *jaký* and one occurrence of *co*, and translations comprising N2 included only one token of each. That is – **19 tokens** of relative pronouns (out of total 21) were used **in translations not comprising N2**. Hence the translations with relative pronouns that comprise N2 cannot be regarded frequent.

4.5.3.2 Interrogative pronouns

Jaký and *co* as interrogative pronouns appeared **18 times** altogether. The numbers for each are demonstrated in Figure 20.

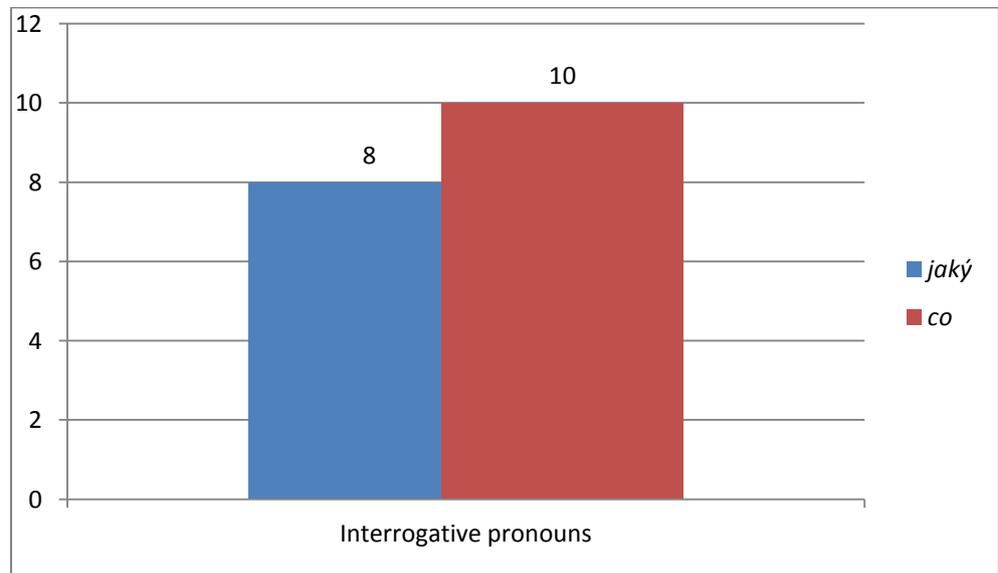


Figure 20: Interrogative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* and their numbers of occurrences.

Not only does Figure 20 show a smaller gap between the number of occurrences of *jaký* and *co*, but more importantly, it shows that ***co* is the more frequent** of the two now – *jaký* appeared 8 times and *co* 10 times.

The proportion of *jaký* to *co* is not the only difference between relative and interrogative pronouns. Another one is in the use of **determiners** preceding *sort of* in the original phrases. *Sort of* which was translated by an interrogative pronoun was **always preceded by *what***. That concerns translations by both *jaký* and *co*, and irrespective of the fact whether the translation comprised or did not comprise N2. Such **absolute correlation** with no exceptions has not been seen before. Example (63) shows this only determiner, *what*, preceding *sort of* that was translated as *jaký* in (63), and as *co* in (64).

(63) „A *jakému* právu se věnujete?“
“So, *what sort of* law do you practise?” (Fielding)

(64) *Co* je to za muže, když nemá žádné mužské přátele? zamyslela se Rút.
And *what sort of* man had no male friends? Ruth reflected. (Irving)

There turned out to be a difference in the use of the each of the pronouns in relation to translations comprising or not comprising N2, as was observed before with relative pronouns as well. In **translations not comprising N2**, *jaký* was the dominant pronoun (seven tokens of *jaký* to one token of *co*), in **translations comprising N2**, the tokens were equally divided between **both *jaký* and *co***. Example (65a) shows *sort of* translated as *jaký* that did not comprise N2, example (65b) shows the only sentence in which *jaký* did comprise the N2. Examples in (66) demonstrate these two different types of translations with the other interrogative pronoun *co* in the same order.

- (65) (a) „O *jaký* oběd jde?“ zeptal se rychle.
He said quickly: “*What sort of* a lunch-party is it?” (Amis)
- (b) „A *jakou* máš na mysli?“
“What sort of job?” (Lindsey)
- (66) (a) „*Co* z kouzelnictví učíte, pane profesore?“
“*What sort of* magic do you teach, Professor Quirrell?” (Rowling)
- (b) „V *čem* podnikal váš manžel?“
“*What sort of* business was your husband in?” (Fielding)

The **distribution of interrogative pronouns within translations not comprising and comprising N2** is demonstrated in Figure 21.

The relative pronoun	Translations not comprising N2	Translations comprising N2
<i>Jaký</i>	7	1
<i>Co</i>	5	5
Total	12	6

Figure 21: Distribution of interrogative pronouns as equivalents of *sort of* in both types of translations.

Figure 21 shows that *jaký* appeared 8 times, just once, however, in translations not comprising N2. *Co* appeared 10 times altogether, and was equally used in both types of translations, that is in proportion five to five. All in all, the **translations not comprising N2 were more frequent** again (twelve to six), although not as frequent as in case of the relative pronouns (nineteen to two).

Looking at the structures with *sort of* translated by either of these two types of pronouns, **relative or interrogative**, revealed some interesting patterns in the category of **translations not comprising N2**. The first is [*what + sort of + a + N2*] which appeared four times altogether (out of 31 tokens of *sort of* in this category of translations) – three of the tokens were translated by an interrogative pronoun *jaký*, and the last one was a relative

pronoun *co*. Example (67) shows this type of construction within which the **indefinite article was inserted** before the N2.

- (67) „*Jaký* člověk?“ zeptala se teta Cissie. Seděla u svačiny s rektorem a mateří; dívky byly tentokrát od stolu vyloučeny.
“What *sort of a* man?” said Aunt Cissie, who was sitting at tea with the rector and the Mater: the girls having been excluded for once from the meal. (Lawrence)

A single most striking observation was the **lack of concord in number** between *sort of* and the rest of the sentence members, as in (68):

- (68) „O *jaká* prohlášení se jedná, Šintaró?“
“And *what sort of statements* are these, Shintaro?” (Ishiguro)

Example (68) demonstrates the concord in number between the verb and the N2 but not *sort of*. This means that *sort* is not the head noun there. As discussed in the theoretical preliminaries, this use of *sort of* demonstrates the postdeterminer construction (2.1.2.1). In such a construction, *sort of* functions as a postdeterminer and is always singular.

Within the translations comprising N2 (eight in total for both relative and interrogative pronouns), *sort of* was three times a part of a phrase [**determiner + sort of + thing**] in the original sentence. All these tokens were **translated solely by *co*** – either as a relative pronoun (once), as in (69a) or an interrogative pronoun (twice), as in (69b).

- (69) (a) Jestli je lepší, než *co* by člověk obvykle napsal, aby si udržel místo.
Anything beyond *the sort of thing* that'll help you to keep your job? (Amis)
- (b) „A *co* je tedy možné?“
“Well, *what sort of thing* is possible, then?” (Lawrence)

4.5.4 Negative pronouns

Sort of was also translated by a negative pronoun. However, there were only **two** such **tokens** out of total 255 tokens of all pronouns, that is only 0.78%. Once was *sort of* translated as *nic* and once as *žádný*. Example (70) shows the latter.

(70) Byl to samozřejmě iracionální nápad, protože jsme se *žádného* zločinu nedopustili.

This was of course an utterly irrational idea, for we had not committed *any sort of* crime. (Ishiguro)

Here, *sort of* is preceded by *any* as its determiner, which is within the scope of negation, and along with it, it was translated as *žádný*. This is a type of correlation between the determiner and *sort of* as was seen before, for instance between Czech *nějaký* and *sort of* preceded by *some*.

4.6 *Sort of* translated by an adjective

Sort of translated by an adjective is the smallest category of translations with *sort of* inside the NP. This is demonstrated in Figure 22.

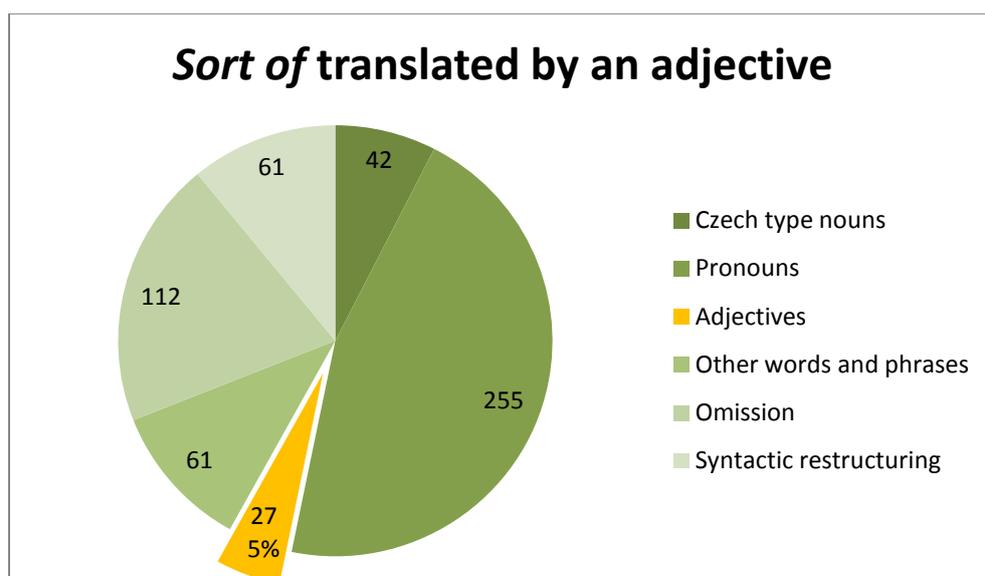


Figure 22: *Sort of* translated by an adjective.

Figure 22 provides the number of the tokens that were translated as by an adjective in proportion to the other categories. These **27 tokens** represent 4.83% of all tokens of *sort of* inside the NP.

This category of translations ranks among the more **varied** – ten different adjectives were used as the Czech equivalents of *sort of*. Their distribution is shown in Figure 23 below.

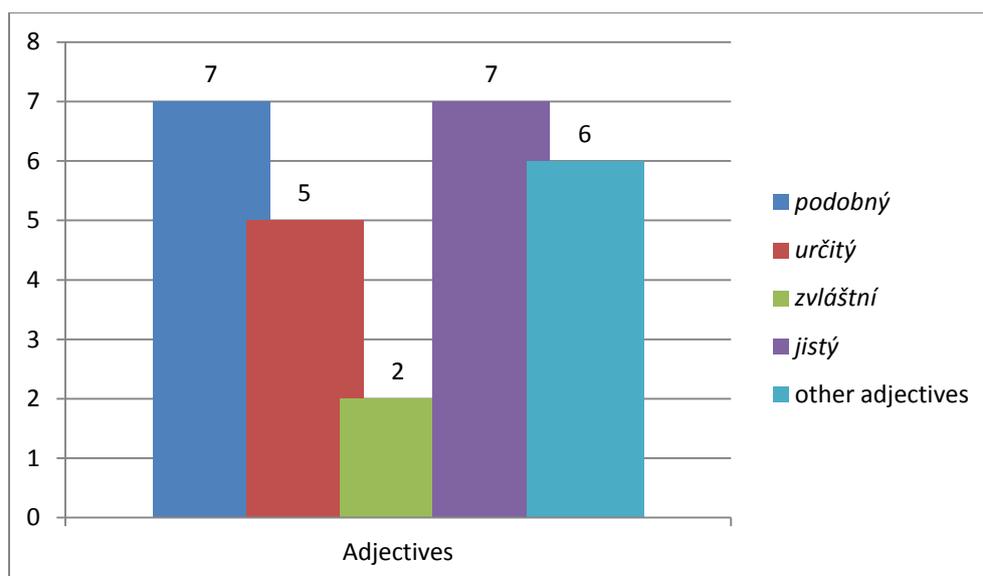


Figure 23: Various adjectives by which *sort of* was translated.

As shown in Figure 23, the adjectives used in the translations were *podobný* (seven tokens), *jistý* (seven tokens), *určitý* (five tokens), *zvláštní* (two tokens), and six more, which occurred only once each: *různý*, *připomínající*, *všemožný*, *pouhý*, *jíný*, and *celý*.

Podobný is the first of the Czech adjectives to be discussed. It was one of the two most frequent adjectives used in the translations, it appeared **seven times**. *Sort of* translated as *podobný* was preceded either by the definite article or *that*. All three occurrences with the **definite article** included various N2, one of them is presented in (71) below.

(71) Ne, že by s *podobnými* otázkami měli mnoho zkušeností.

It was not *the sort of* question they'd had much experience with.

(Grisham, Brethren)

In (71), *question* is translated as *otázkami* and *(the) sort of* as *podobnými*. Hence, the adjective is independent of the N2.

On the other hand, when *sort of* translated as *podobný* was preceded by *that* (four times), it was always followed by the noun *thing*. The Czech translations reflect the whole phrase rather than just *sort of* alone. This is demonstrated in (72).

(72) Klienti *podobná gesta* zásadně nedělají.

Clients didn't do *that sort of thing*, as a rule. (Angell)

In (72), the phrase *that sort of thing* is **anaphoric** – it refers to something previously mentioned. The **Czech translation**, on the other hand, is **explicit**. It follows that the adjective *podobný* is closely connected to the explicit Czech translation which substitutes *that sort of thing*, rather than being an equivalent of *sort of* itself.

Interestingly, Czech is the language that is explicit here. In (44), which is here repeated as (73), it was **the other way round** and the explicit language was English.

(73) Zpěvák, trochu bledší než obvykle, se pořád usmíval a říkal, že nemyslel nic zlého; ale Jack na něj křičel dál, že každému chlapovi, který by si *něco takového* dovolil na jeho sestru, vyrazí všechny zuby naráz; a udělal by to.

The music hall artiste, a little paler than usual, kept smiling and saying that there was no harm meant; but Jack kept shouting at him that if any fellow tried *that sort of a game* on with his sister he'd bloody well put his teeth down his throat: so he would. (Joyce)

The phrase *that sort of thing* has caused three more Czech adjectives (except *podobný*) to appear in the translations. These three adjectives – *různý*, *jiný*, and *celý* – appeared only once in the translations and every time **just because they were part of the translations of *that sort of thing***. In (74) below, *celou záležitostí* substitutes the whole phrase *that sort of thing*

and hence the adjective *celou* is a part of the translation rather than an equivalent of just *sort of* itself.

- (74) „*Celou záležitost* totiž vnímám velmi osobně.“
“I tend to take *that sort of thing* personally.”²⁵ (Lindsey)

Another adjective that appeared **7 times** in the translations is the adjective *jistý*. In all the tokens thus translated *sort of* was preceded by the **indefinite article**:

- (75) Řekl nám, že skupina jeho přátel má dobře míněný úmysl sehrát mu *jistý* žertík.
He said it was the intention of a well-meaning group of this man's friends to play *a sort of* joke on him. (Frost)

This links *jistý* with one of the indefinite pronouns discussed before in 4.5.1 – *jakýsi*. *Jakýsi* was also equivalent to the phrase *a sort of* (in 84.31% cases).

Another of the relatively frequent adjectives is *určitý*. It appeared **five times**, twice as an equivalent of *some sort of*, and three times as an equivalent of *a sort of*. Example (76) not only shows the translation of *a sort of* by *určitý*, but it also represents the construction [**determiner + adjective + *sort of* + way**], which appeared twice with the indefinite article.

- (76) Tak se Eddie jevil i sám sobě: příliš hezký, určitým způsobem nemožný.
It was the way Eddie saw himself: too pretty, in an unmanly sort of way. (Irving)

²⁵ This translation is in contrast with (71) where the N2 and *sort of* were each translated separately – N2, *question*, as *otázkami*, and *sort of* as *podobnými*.

As there was a connection between *jistý* and *jakýsi* (with respect to their common determiner), there appeared the same kind of connection between *určitý* and *nějaký* with respect to *some*. Example (77) shows *some sort of* translated as *určitý*, which is in contrast with the more frequent *nějaký*, as discussed in the category of indefinite pronouns.

(77) Pohlédl z okna. Před očima se mu vinula silnice a nemohl se ubránit *určitému* radostnému vzrušení, zejména při pohledu na sluncem ozářenou krajinu.

He looked out of the window; the road unfolded itself in front of him, and he couldn't help feeling *some sort of* exhilaration, especially at the brightness of the landscape under the sun. (Amis)

As for the less frequent adjectives, *zvláštní* occurred twice and in both cases it was preceded by the indefinite article, as in (78).

(78) Julie si stoupla vedle něj; se *zvláštním* zaujetím hleděli spolu na rozložitou postavu.

Julia had come across to his side; together they gazed down with *a sort of* fascination at the sturdy figure below. (Orwell)

Lastly, in (79), *sort of* is preceded by a “nonce expression” that modifies N2. Such situation is identical with the **semi-suffix use** of the type noun discussed in the theoretical preliminaries in 2.1.2.3. Here, *sort of* was translated by *připomínající*, which represents one of the adjectives appearing just once. The other two *sorts of* there were translated differently and will be dealt with later in the category of *Sort of* omitted in the translation, 4.8.

(79) Bývalo slyšet zvuk, jako když ve zdi haraší myš, i zvuk, jako když se někdo snaží nevydávat zvuk, a celá škála zvuků někde mezi tím -

zvuk *připomínající* otevírání dvířek v podlaze i náhlá nepřítomnost zvuku, jako když krták zatajil dech.

There was the mouse-crawling-between-the-walls sort of sound, and the sound-like-someone-trying-not-to-make-a-sound sort of sound, and the whole range of sounds between those sounds - *the opening-of-the-door-in-the-floor sort of sound*, and the absence of sound that the moleman made when he held his breath. (Irving)

4.7 *Sort of* translated by other words and phrases

This category of translations includes translations of *sort of* by words that do not fit either of the other categories/ word classes. Figure 24 shows the span of this category within the categorisation that was made.

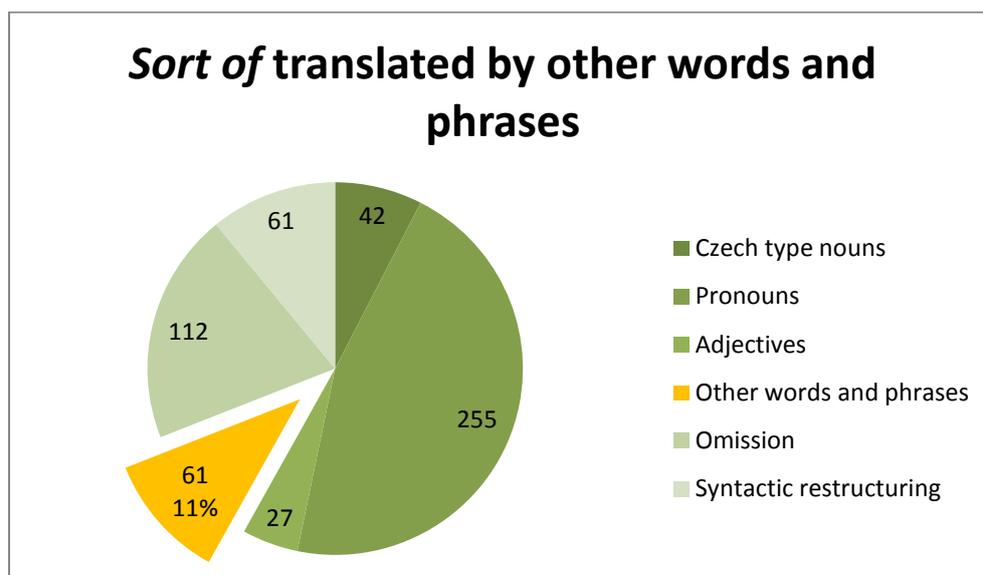


Figure 24: *Sort of* translated by other words and phrases.

Figure 24 illustrates that there were **61 tokens** of *sort of* in this category, which represents **10.93%** of the total number of tokens inside an NP. These tokens were translated by either **set of words/ phrases** or **single words** that belong to other word classes than those introduced before.

This category is **the most varied** of those within which *sort of* was translated or had a relevant counterpart. However, despite this variety,

some of the words or phrases reappeared more often than the others. Expressions that reappeared at least twice are shown in Figure 25.

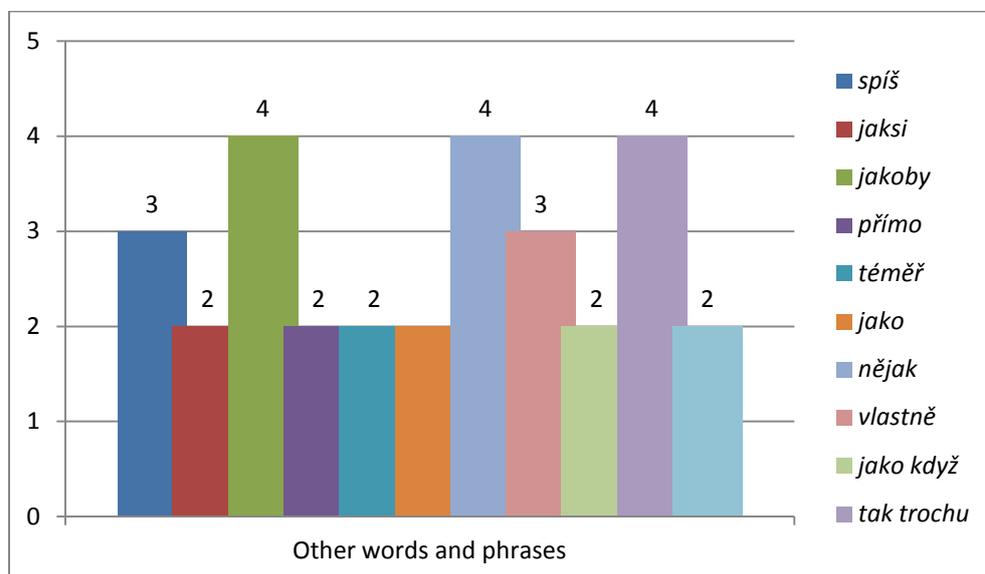


Figure 25: Translations of *sort of* by other words and phrases.

Figure 25 shows the translation equivalents of *sort of* that appeared at least twice. It implies that the top three translations by other words/ phrases are *jakoby*, *nějak*, and *tak trochu* that all appeared 4 times. Example (80) shows *jakoby*, (81) shows *nějak*, and lastly, (82) shows *tak trochu*.

(80) Do posledních slov se vmísila řada *jakoby* morseových značek, následovaná hučením a šuměním.

A *sort of* Morse signal fell between these sentences, and then a rushing noise supervened. (Amis)

(81) Rektor se zlobil: tvářil se navrčeně, kousavě, *nějak* uštěpačně.

The rector was angry: his face had a snarling, doggish look, a *sort of* sneer. (Lawrence)

(82) „*Tak trochu* vládní podnikatel, abych tak řekl.“

“*Sort of* a governmental entrepreneur, let's say.” (Franzen)

Some of the various words cover similar meanings and can be grouped together, such as *jakoby* and *jakokdyby*, or *skoro* and *téměř*, or *celkem* and *vcelku*. A special category with a shared meaning was formed by phrases representing the **meaning of “et cetera”**, such as *a spol.*, *a tak podobně*, *a podobně*, and *a tak*. These phrases represent **10 tokens** and all of them were in the original expressed by a phrase [*that + sort of + thing/ stuff*]. Such a phrase is shown in (83) with the most frequent equivalent – *a tak podobně* which appeared 6 times. Example (84) demonstrates the same use with the other N2 used in these constructions (*stuff*), as well as a different Czech translation (*a tak*).

(83) Novinka: prostitutka nebyla, ale my tomu s oblibou věříme, a to natolik, že ignorujeme drobnosti, jako jsou fakta, důkazy *a tak podobně*.

News flash: she wasn't, but we like believing it so much that we ignore little things like facts, evidence, *that sort of thing*. (Angell)

(84) Armageddon na spadnutí *a tak*.

Armageddon, *that sort of stuff*. (Grisham, Brethren)

Interestingly, all eight phrases with *thing* were translated by a single Czech phrase – *a (tak) podobně*, whereas two phrases with *stuff* revealed different Czech equivalents – *a tak* and *a spol.* Another interesting fact is that out of ten tokens in total, six tokens of *that sort of thing* were used by a single author – Jeanette Angell.

Some of the words/ phrases in the translations emerged because the **syntactical structure of the sentence was changed** – the original noun phrase including *sort of* and an N2 was translated by a verb phrase. The influence of *sort of* was, however, still obvious in the translated sentence, and so it was **not lost in the translations**. Such expressions are hence part of this category: *svým způsobem*, *jako*, *nějak*, *jako by*, *takhle nějak*, *jako když*, *jako kdyby*, *vlastně*, *takhle*, *nějak*, *trochu*, and *téměř*. Examples (85)

and (86) demonstrate that *sort of* was retained in the translations whose syntax was changed in respect to the original sentence.

(85) Žaludek i pokožka vždy *nějak protestovaly*, člověk měl pocit, že byl ošizen o něco, nač má právo.

Always in your stomach and in your skin there was *a sort of protest*, a feeling that you had been cheated of something that you had a right to. (Orwell)

(86) Pan Wolfsheim zvedl ruku, *jako by nám žehnal*.

Mr Wolfshiem raised his hand in *a sort of benediction*.

(Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

4.8 *Sort of* omitted in the translations

Sort of inside the NP was omitted in translations in **112 tokens**. With a number this high, this category of translation equivalents (zero correspondence) ranks as **the second largest**. The tokens in this category represent **20.07%** of all tokens of *sort of* inside a NP. This is demonstrated in Figure 26 below.

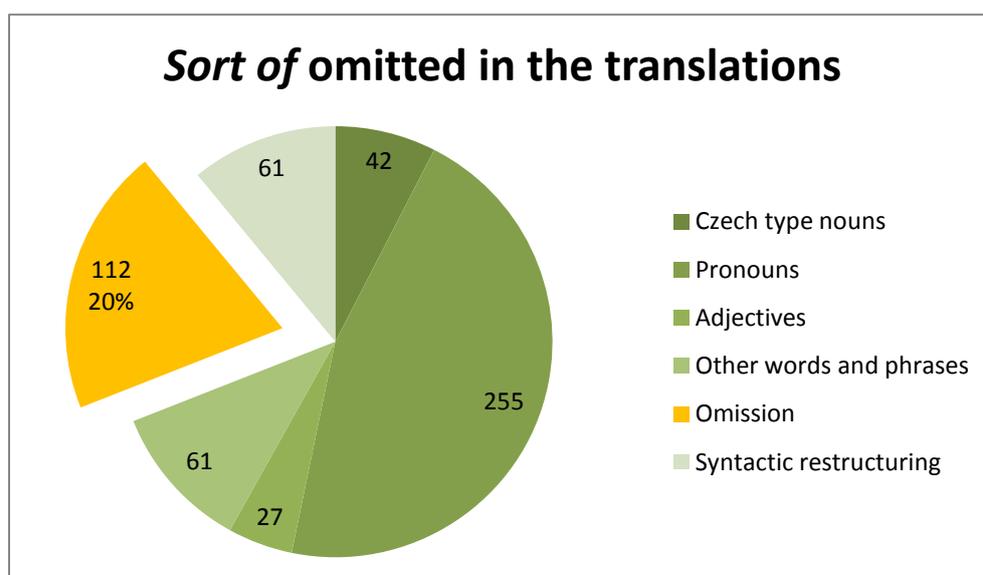


Figure 26: *Sort of* omitted in the translations.

Translations within this category represent situations where **no equivalent for *sort of*** was given. Johansson comments on this issue as follows: “It is a common experience in using translation corpora that there may be no formal cross-linguistic correspondence. We call this omission, or **zero correspondence**” (2007, 58). He also states reasons for such omissions – either “there is some kind of compensation” (58), or it “may be the result of carelessness on the part of the translator or may be due to conscious adaptation of the text to the target audience” (59), or simply “it is impossible to find a good reason for zero correspondence” (59).

Although the analysis of tokens of *sort of* could reveal that there is no formal correspondence, the reasons for such omissions can hardly be stated for all of them. However, for some tokens, stating the reasons turned out possible – for instance, there were sentences in whose translations the whole **phrases with *sort of*** were **completely skipped**. This happened **twice** and in both cases it concerned the phrase *sort of thing*, as in (87):

(87) Předpokládám, že i kdyby mě někdy skutečně zatkli, Broskvička by mě dostala ven na kauci.

I assume that had I ever in fact been arrested, Peach would have bailed me out, *all that sort of thing*. (Angell)

Another of the easily defined reasons is the **one-word substitution of *sort of thing*** by an explicit noun²⁶ – thereby *sort of* gets omitted in the translation. This happened **twice** and such a situation is demonstrated in (88) in which *sort of thing* was substituted by *záležitost*.

(88) Je to náhodou dost důvěrná *záležitost*.

It happens to be a rather confidential *sort of thing*.

(Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

²⁶ Here, the Czech translation by a noun is the equivalent of N2, in this case *thing*, from the original sentence.

Some sentences in this category also underwent **syntactic restructuring** by which the N2 was changed into a verb phrase, as was discussed before in 4.7 *Sort of* translated by other words and phrases. Here, however, *sort of* in the translations **was absent**. This situation is demonstrated in (89) which was one of the **five cases** in which *sort of* was omitted in the translation. The opposite situation of such syntactic restructuring from 4.7 where *sort of* was translated, is here repeated as (90).

(89) Ztěžka si kecl na své velitelské sedadlo a zadoufal, že se pod ním rozvalí a poskytne mu tak důvod, aby si mohl pořádně zazuřit.
Křeslo však jenom naříkavě zavržalo.

He flopped as heavily as he could on to his control seat in the hope that it would break and give him something to be genuinely angry about, but *it only gave a complaining sort of creak.* (Adams)

(90) Pan Wolfsheim zvedl ruku, *jako by nám žehnal.*

Mr Wolfshiem raised his hand in *a sort of benediction.*

(Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

Nevertheless, in the vast majority of translations, it was “impossible to find a good reason for zero correspondence” (Johansson 2007, 59), to put it in words by Stig Johansson again. Such translations with a total omission are represented below in (91), (92), and (93).

(91) Elektronická kniha.

It 's a *sort of* electronic book. (Adams)

(92) „Já ti to vysvětlím, mami, to je dlouhá historie.“

“I can explain, Mom. It's *sort of* a long story.” (Grisham, Client)

(93) Zvlášť Kuroda, na kterého pohlíželi jako na mluvčího, pronesl takových projevů slušný počet.

And Kuroda in particular, being looked on as a *sort of* spokesman for them, gave a fair proportion of these. (Ishiguro)

4.9 Syntactic restructuring

This category includes all the translations that **did not reveal the function of *sort of* due to a syntactic restructuring**. The difference between this category and 4.8, *Sort of* omitted in the translation, is demonstrated in examples (94) and (95):

(94) „Vyrozuměla jsem, že jste utrpěl úraz hlavy, který ovlivňuje vaše snění.“

“I understand that you suffered *some sort of* head injury and that it affected your dreaming.” (Krentz)

(95) Claire zčervenala a zašeptala: „Ne, mám jen příliš velká prsa. *Každý na ně zírá.*“

Claire blushed and whispered, “No, I just have very large breasts *that draw the wrong sort of attention.*” (Lindsey)

Whilst in (94) the translations still included the N2 and *sort of* was clearly omitted, the translations in this category are so different from the original that the presence of *sort of* was impossible to trace – ergo its omission either. This is the case in (95) where **both N2 and *sort of* were part of the syntactic restructuring**. To a certain degree, this is a case of zero correspondence as well, but the **reason for the absence** of *sort of* in the translation is the syntactic restructuring, rather than a simple omission.

Figure 27 provides the number of tokens in this category of translations in proportion to the other categories.

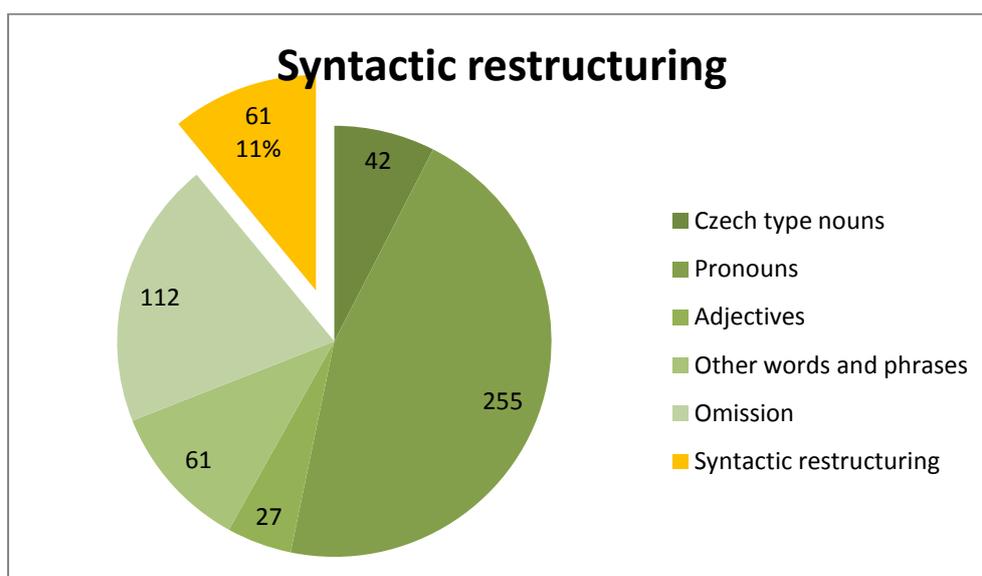


Figure 27: Syntactic restructuring.

As shown in Figure 27, there were **61 tokens** of *sort of* that were lost in the translations due to syntactic restructuring. This number represents **10.93%** of all tokens of *sort of* inside a NP.

Most cases of syntactic restructuring were found in translations of Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim* and George Orwell's *1984*. These **two books** represent 25 out of total 61 occurrences of syntactic restructuring, that is **40.98%**. The different translations from *Lucky Jim* are demonstrated in (96), examples in (97) represent syntactic restructuring found in *1984*.

- (96) (a) Bertrand úžasně miluje svobodu.
At the moment he's just *sort of* gone off, nobody knows where. (Amis)
- (b) „Stává se z vás pomalu odborník, že?“
“You're getting good at this *sort of* thing, aren't you?” (Amis)
- (97) (a) Pak se však zarazil.
But then there came a *sort of* check. (Orwell)
- (b) Při zmínce o Velkém bratru nasadil Winston okamžitě dychtivý výraz.

A *sort of* vapid eagerness flitted across Winston's face at the mention of Big Brother. (Orwell)

The remaining 36 tokens of *sort of* in sentences that were syntactically restructured were divided among the other authors. John Grisham's books and Johanna Lindsey's *A Loving Scoundrel* also showed more than the average number of such translations – five; all the remaining translators used this type of translation fewer than that. Some more examples of syntactic restructuring that caused the absence of *sort of* in the translations are shown below in (98), (99), and (100).

(98) „Nebezpečí!“ vyjekl Ben *se smíšeným pocitem radosti i hrůzy*.
“Danger!” squeaked Ben *in a sort of horrified pleasure*.
(Asimov, Caves)

(99) “Někdy pár týdnů, *jenom dočasně*, dokud nejsou souzeny. Potom se buď vrátí domů nebo odejdou do výcvikové školy.”
“A few weeks occasionally, *but this is sort of a holding area* until the kids are processed and either sent back home or to a training school.”
(Grisham, Client)

(100) *Nebudila dojem*, že míchá dohromady pracovní vztahy s osobními, což obvykle nedělal ani on.
She didn't look like the sort of person to mix business with pleasure, and normally neither did he. (Steel, Chance)

4.10 Translations of *sort of* outside the NP

Sort of outside the NP represents the other of the two major categories (with *sort of* inside the NP) between which all the tokens were divided. It constitutes **97 tokens of all 658 tokens** of *sort of* within the given subcorpus that has been worked with, that is **14.74%**.

The tokens in this category were further categorised according to the type of phrase that followed *sort of*. Such subdivision is shown in Figure 28 below.

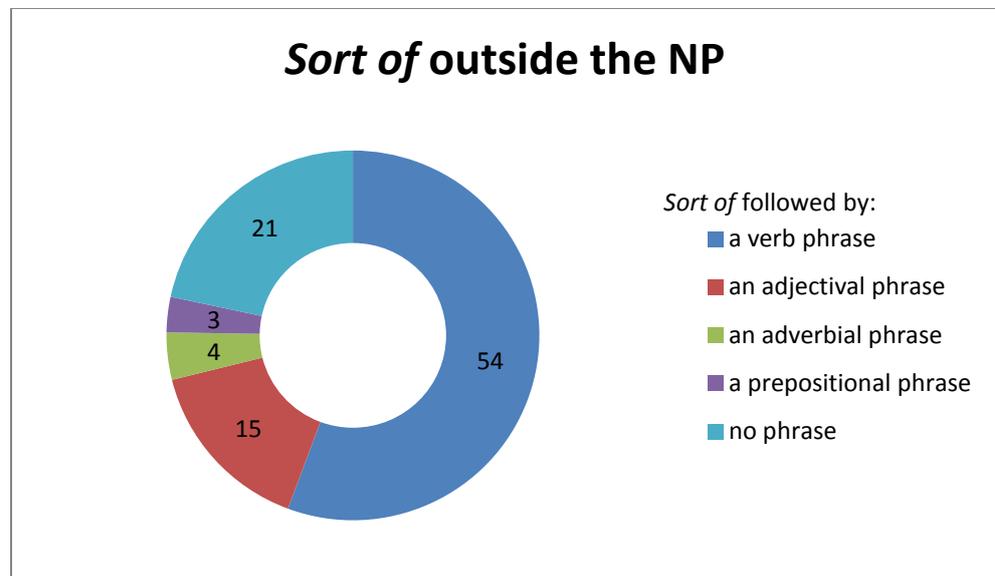


Figure 28: *Sort of* outside the NP.

As follows from the data in Figure 28, in the position following *sort of* a **verb phrase was predominant** (54 tokens). *Sort of standing alone* ranked second with 21 tokens, an **adjectival phrase** ranked third with 15 tokens and the smallest numbers of tokens was represented by an **adverbial phrase** and a **prepositional** phrase.

As was discussed in 4.2, General observations, this use of *sort of* turned out to be **author dependent**. The three authors that used *sort of* outside the NP the most were John Grisham (29 times in all his books in total), Jayne Krentz (14 times), and Jonathan Franzen (ten times).

Examples (101) and (102) show the **two most frequent** situations – *sort of* **followed by a verb phrase**, and *sort of* **standing alone**, respectively.

(101) Souhlasila s tím, že odjede a bude s ním bydlet ve Vilniusu, *tak trochu* s Gitanasem nastoupila do letadla, usadila se v první třídě a pak se z letadla vyplížila a *tak trochu* si změnila domácí telefonní číslo a požádala Eden, aby Gitanasovi řekla - kdyby volal -, že zmizela.

She agreed to go and live in Vilnius, and she *sort of* got on the plane with Gitanas and sat down in first class and then sneaked off the plane and *sort of* changed their home phone number and had Eden tell Gitanas, when he called, that she had disappeared. (Franzen)

(102) „*Tak nějak.*“

“*Sort of.*” (Grisham, Client)

Examples (103), (104) and (105) represent the less frequent phrases following *sort of* outside the NP. In (103) *sort of* is followed by an **adjectival phrase**, in (104) it is followed by an **adverbial phrase**, and in (105) by a **prepositional phrase**.

(103) Víte, jsou to tenisky a jsem bez nich *tak nějak* bezradný.

You see, they're tennis shoes, and I'm *sort of* helpless without them.

(Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

(104) Možná ji vídal každý den a zabil ji *víceměnně* spontánně.

Maybe he saw her every day, and he killed her *sort of* spontaneously.

(Harris)

(105) Kimberly Embergová byla *tak něco* mezi, byla sice veliká, ale proporce měla pěkné.

Kimberly Emberg was *sort of* in-between, big, but with a good waist indentation. (Harris)

All these examples above demonstrating the different phrases following *sort of* and *sort of* standing alone included Czech equivalents. However, as was discussed in 4.3, Translation equivalents of *sort of* inside the NP, translations by specific words were not always the only output of the translation process. The category of *sort of* outside the noun phrase also included cases of **omission** and **syntactic restructuring**, examples of which are (106) and (107), respectively.

(106) “Na minulé schůzi,“ a pak se zarazila a podívala se na mě napůl hrdě a napůl bázlivě, jako kdyby si přála, abych se jí vyptávala a ona mohla vypadat důležitě, přesto však jako by se bála, abych jí nezpůsobila potíže .

She would say, “At the last meeting,” and then stop and look at me *sort of* half proud and half scared as though she wanted me to ask about it so she could look important , and yet scared I might get her in trouble. (Asimov, Caves)

(107) Až potud nebylo obtížné zjistit, co dělal, - našli se hoši , kteří viděli člověka, „*který vypadal jako blázen*“ , a automobilisté, na které podivně zíral z okraje silnice.

Thus far there was no difficulty in accounting for his time - there were boys who had seen a man “*acting sort of crazy*”, and motorists at whom he stared oddly from the side of the road.

(Fitzgerald, Gatsby)

Figure 29 below shows the distribution of *sort of* outside the NP within each of the translation processes.

	Translated	Omission	Syntactic restructuring
Number of tokens of <i>sort of</i>	65	18	14

Figure 29: The distribution of *sort of* outside the NP within the different translation processes.

Figure 29 shows that 65 tokens of *sort of* outside the NP had a Czech equivalent, in 18 cases *sort of* was omitted, and in 14 cases the translation equivalent of *sort of* could not be identified because of a syntactic restructuring.

The most frequent translation equivalents are presented in Figure 30.

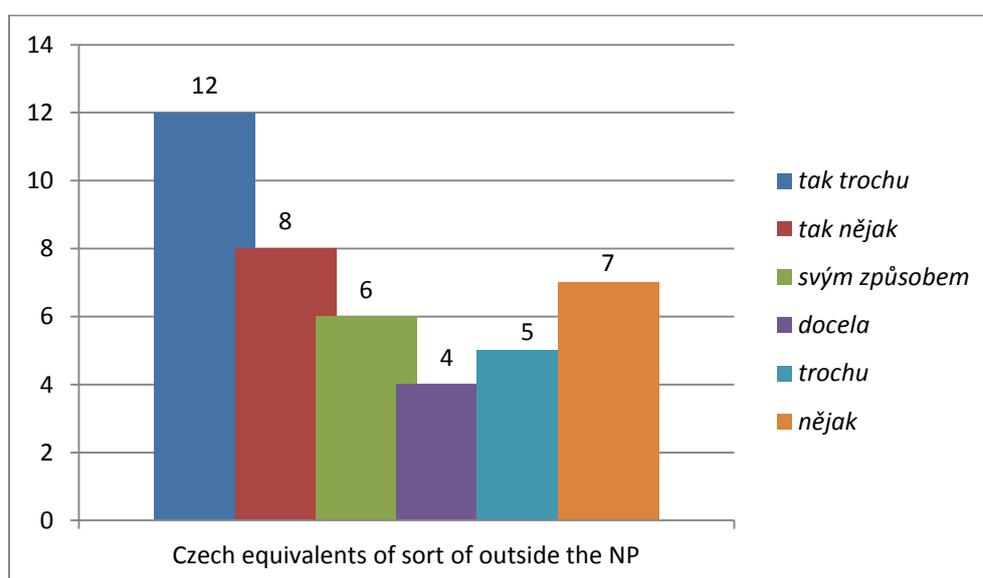


Figure 30: Czech equivalents of *sort of* outside the NP.

Figure 30 presents the most frequent equivalents of *sort of* outside the NP, that is: *tak trochu* (12 tokens), *tak nějak* (8 tokens), *svým způsobem* (6 tokens), *docela* (4 tokens), *trochu* (5 tokens), and *nějak* (7 tokens).

There turned out to be an interesting adversative relation between some of the translation equivalents, such as between *dost/ opravdu* and *docela/ tak trochu*. Such a contrast in meaning is demonstrated between examples in (108) representing *dost* and *opravdu*, and (109) representing *docela* and *tak trochu*.

- (108) (a) „Jsem *dost* překvapená, že tě tu vidím zpátky,“ řekla, když si prohlížela toaletu.
“*Sort of* surprised to see you back here,” she said, inspecting the toilet. (Grisham, Client)
- (b) „Touhle dobou už můžeš vědět, že to *opravdu* mám moc ráda!“
“You should be able to tell by now that I *sort of* like it.”
(Siddons)
- (109) (a) *Docela* se mu ty fotky líbily.
He *sort of* liked them. (Grisham, Partner)
- (b) „Já to věděla, že z toho budeš mít *tak trochu* depresi.“
“I knew it would make things *sort of* depressing for you.”
(Fitzgerald, Diamond)

5 Conclusions

This thesis investigated the **functions of *sort of* via its Czech translation equivalents**. For this purpose, the corpus InterCorp was used and a **subcorpus** (3,464,631 words) of Czech translations of British, American, and Canadian fiction was created.

The criterion used for sorting the data was whether *sort of* was **internal or external to the noun phrase**. Czech equivalents of *sort of* were analysed separately for both of these major categories.

According to the linguistic literature, there were the following **constructions with *sort of* inside the noun phrase**: the binominal, the postdeterminer, the nominal qualifying, the descriptive modifier, and the quantifier construction. The most important observation was **the shift in a meaning** from the original and only “head use” in which *sort* is a head noun and expresses the meaning of “subclass” (in the binominal construction), to “pre-head uses”, in which *sort* has been demoted from the head status and its syntactic status was changed (in the other four types of constructions).

This fact was also **reflected in the analysis of Czech equivalents**: only 42 tokens of *sort of* out of total 558 inside the NP (7.52%) were translated by a Czech type noun (most frequently by the type noun *druh*). It means that only in these 42 tokens *sort* was a **head noun** and was translated as such. In the sentences with *sort* as a head noun, the determiners were treated independently of the type noun – that is they had a translation equivalent on their own (if any at all), as did *sort*.

All the other Czech equivalents besides type nouns were translations of ***sort of* as a unit** rather than *sort* as a head noun followed by an *of*-phrase. One example was found in the analysis – *what sort of statements are these* – in which the verb did not agree in number with *sort*, but with the noun in the *of*-phrase, which reflects the fact that *sort* was demoted from its head use. The translation equivalent (which is not a type noun) reflected this change by **translating *sort of* along with its determiner** (in this case, the translation of *what sort of* by *jaký*). Word classes in the Czech translations

reflecting such a unit were: adjectives, pronouns, and other word classes (mainly adverbs and particles).

Translations by pronouns turned out to be the biggest category – pronouns as the Czech equivalents **represented 45.70%** out of all occurrences of *sort of* inside the noun phrase, that is specifically 255 out of total 558 tokens. This category of translations was further **subcategorised** according to the type of pronoun into translations by indefinite, demonstrative, relative, interrogative, and negative pronouns, the most numerous of which were indefinite pronouns.

The translations with pronouns introduced an interesting issue of the possibility of the **noun in the *of*-phrase not having a translation equivalent** of its own, but being **comprised in the translation equivalent of *sort of*** in the phrase. In other words, the translation equivalent comprised both *sort of* and the second noun. Such a noun was often *thing* or *stuff*. The phrase *sort of thing/ stuff* was then translated either non-specifically, that is hand in hand with the original text (for instance by *něco takového*), or its meaning was made explicit and the phrase was anaphoric (for instance *that sort of thing* translated by *taková gesta*).

One of the more significant findings that emerged from the analysis of the translation equivalents other than type nouns was the **correlations between the Czech translations and the English determiners** preceding *sort of*. No matter how high such a correlation was, the translation has always reflected that the determiner and *sort of* together form a complex unit. For instance, *jakýsi* was in 84.31% cases equivalent to *a sort of*, for *nějaký* as an equivalent of *some sort of* the correlation was even stronger – 90.48%, and for interrogative pronouns *jaký* and *co* the correlation was 100% which means that the determiner preceding *sort of* was always the same – namely, *what*.

On the other hand, there were equivalents of tokens of *sort of* that were preceded by **various determiners**. For instance, this was the case of *takový/ takovýto/ takovýhle*. The tokens of *sort of* which these pronouns translated showed **no preference for a specific determiner**: it was

preceded by demonstrative pronouns (22 times) as well as by the definite article (16 times). Some equivalents appeared only once and such a single occurrence could not provide any relevant information about the degree of such a correlation. However, even if the correlations were not high, the Czech translation equivalents still reflected that the determiner and *sort of* were translated as a single unit.

Nonetheless, *sort of* was not always translated in the Czech sentences. There were two different situations when **no translation equivalent was present** – omission and syntactic restructuring. The difference lies in a reason for the missing equivalent. In the case of omission, the Czech translations still included the second noun, but lacked any translations of *sort of* which preceded it, hence it was **omitted**. In the case of **syntactic restructuring**, significant changes in a structure resulted in the fact that the presence of *sort of* was impossible to trace in the Czech translation.

Tokens of *sort of* in the **uses external to the noun phrase** represented **14.74% of all tokens**, more specifically, 97 out of total 658 tokens. The subcategorisation was based on the **type of phrase** that followed *sort of* – mostly it was verb phrases, then adjectival phrases, and less frequently adverbial and prepositional phrases. However, there were also tokens of *sort of* that appeared independently with no phrase following it. The tokens of *sort of* in these subcategories were translated mostly by **adverbs**, such as *trochu*, *docela*, *věceméně*, or *nějak*, or the translation equivalents were missing on the grounds of omission or syntactic restructuring.

Putting aside the translation equivalents, some interesting findings emerged also from the **analysis of the numbers of tokens** in relation to authors/ books, and the uses internal versus external to the noun phrase. It was revealed that **in 52.38% of works** (that is 22 out of total 42), *sort of* was used **less than ten times** and in 18 works, the number of occurrences spread from ten to 40. On the other hand, there were two authors who used *sort of* **a lot more often** than that – they used it 68 and 79 times. As for the

number of **uses external to the noun phrase**, *sort of* outside the NP was **not used at all in 17 works**, in the remaining works, the number of occurrences spreads mostly from one to four, only in three works there were more than four occurrences of *sort of* outside the noun phrase.

For future research, the following topics are recommended: an investigation of determiners preceding *sort of* in monolingual corpora, a comparison of *sort of* in casual conversations and written prose, a comparison of the imitation of direct speech in fiction versus real conversations, and functions of *sorts of* and its Czech equivalents.

6 Czech resume

Tato práce má za cíl vysvětlit různé funkce *sort of* v anglickém jazyce a popsat způsoby, jakými se *sort of* překládá do češtiny. Popis funkcí v teoretické části vychází z lingvistické literatury, pro analýzu českých překladových protějšků *sort of* byl použit korpus InterCorp.

Teoretická část ukazuje na to, že *sort of* se v odborné literatuře označuje **několika různými termíny**. Tyto termíny se pohybují od obecných, které zařazují *sort* do větší skupiny slov podobného významu, jako například „type nouns“ nebo „partitive nouns“, ke konkrétním, které více přibližují funkce *sort of*, jako například termíny „modifier“ nebo „qualifier.“

Základní členění, které provází celou práci, je na *sort of* stojící uvnitř a mimo jmennou frázi. ***Sort of* uvnitř jmenné fráze** je následováno podstatným jménem, které může být dále modifikováno, naproti tomu ***sort of* mimo jmennou frázi** je následováno slovesnou, adjektivní, adverbiální či předložkovou frází nebo stojí samostatně.

Úvod práce se věnuje popisu **pěti syntaktických konstrukcí se *sort of* uvnitř jmenné fráze**. Konkrétně se jedná o konstrukce “binominal”, “postdeterminer”, “nominal qualifying”, “descriptive modifier” a “quantifier”. Na těchto pěti typech konstrukcí je vysvětleno, jak se *sort* vyvíjelo a jak se společně s tímto vývojem měnil i jeho syntaktický status – tedy od původního významu „podtřída/ podtyp“, kde *sort* stojí jako „head noun“, k použití, ve kterých jako „head noun“ nevystupuje a naopak jiné „head noun“ předchází, konkrétně substantivum, které následuje za *of*.

Další část práce popisuje **korpus Intercop**, který slouží jako zdroj pro analýzu českých překladových protějšků. InterCorp je paralelní korpus obsahující ve svém jádru fikci, ve svých kolekcích i právníkové nebo politické texty, ve 27 různých jazycích včetně češtiny a každý tento text má český protějšek.

V rámci tohoto korpusu byl pro potřeby této práce vytvořen **podkorpus**, který sestává z beletrie napsané po roce 1914, jejíž jazyk byl

původně angličtina, a obsahuje 3 464 631 slov. Ve vyhledávání bylo *sort of* nastaveno jako fráze, ta se v daném podkorpusu vyskytla celkem 658krát.

Praktická část práce se věnuje **detailní analýze všech 658 výskytů**. Ty byly **rozřazeny do různých kategorií** podle různých měřítek – z hlediska syntaktického byla rozlišena použití *sort of* uvnitř a mimo jmennou frázi, z hlediska českých překladů byly rozlišovány situace, kdy výskyty byly přeloženy nebo naopak byly z překladu vynechány (z důvodů jiné větné stavby či z důvodů neznámých na straně překladatele). Naskytly se i tři situace, kdy InterCorp neposkytl paralelní českou větu a překlad nemohl být analyzován.

České překladové protějšky *sort of* byly analyzovány zvlášť pro *sort of* uvnitř a mimo jmennou frázi. Překladové ekvivalenty *sort of* uvnitř jmenné fráze pak byly **roztříděny podle slovních druhů** do kategorií podstatných jmen, přídavných jmen, zájmen a jiných slovních druhů (jako jsou příslovce nebo částice).

Analýza ukázala, že překlady **podstatnými jmény** jako jsou **druh nebo typ** odpovídaly původnímu významu *sort*, které v takové větě stálo jako „**head noun**“. V těchto případech byly „**determiners**“ předcházející *sort* **překládány zvlášť** (pokud vůbec překládány byly), tedy nezávisle na *sort*. Všechny ostatní české ekvivalenty vedle těchto podstatných jmen ve svém překladu obsahovaly i daný „**determiner**“, tedy ***sort of a „determiner“ tvořily jeden celek***, který byl jako takový i přeložen.

Příklad *what sort of statements are these* ukazuje situaci, v níž *sort* není „**head noun**“. Jako „**head noun**“ tady vystupuje až druhé substantivum ve jmenné frázi (v tomto případě konkrétně *statements*), tedy to, které následuje *sort of*. Toto druhé substantivum vykazuje **gramatickou shodu v čísle se slovesem** (*statements are*), což pro *sort*, které zůstalo v jednotném čísle, neplatí. Tato změna ve funkci *sort* se projevila i na překladu, který zní *o jaká prohlášení se jedná*. *Sort of* bylo přeloženo zájmenem jako celek. V tomto případě daný český překladový protějšek obsahuje i **determiner** *what*.

Slovní druhy, kterými bylo *sort of* jako celek překládáno jsou: přídavná jména, zájmena a ostatní slovní druhy jako příslovce a částice. **Zájmena** jako české překladové protějšky tvořila největší skupinu – 225 výskytů *sort of* uvnitř jmenné fráze bylo přeloženo právě zájmenem. Tato skupina byla dále rozdělena na podskupiny podle toho, o jaký typ zájmena se v překladu jednalo – na zájmena neurčitá, ukazovací, vztažná, tázací a záporná. Nejpočetnější byla skupina zájmen **neurčitých**.

Zájmena jako české překladové protějšky představila zajímavou problematiku – druhé substantivum ve jmenné frázi jako součást překladu originální fráze se *sort of*. Což znamená, že **substantivum následující po *sort of* nemělo v českém překladu ekvivalent**. Ve většině případů bylo takovým substantivem *thing*, případně *stuff*. Fráze *sort of thing/ stuff* pak byla překládána buď neurčitě (jako například *něco takového*), což odpovídá významu v původním textu, nebo explicitně, a pak představovala anaforickou referenci (jako například *that sort of thing* přeloženo jako *taková gesta*).

Jedním z nejzásadnějších poznatků, který vzešel z analýzy, jsou **korelace mezi českým překladovým ekvivalentem a původním „determiner“** předcházejícím *sort of*. Bez ohledu na to, jak byla tato korelace vysoká, *sort of* bylo vždy **překládáno spolu s daným „determiner“**. Například zájmeno *jakýsi* bylo v 84,31% případů ekvivalentní frázi *a sort of*, v případě *nějaký* byla korelace ještě vyšší, konkrétně 90,48%. Tázací zájmeno *jaký* bylo jediné, jehož korelace dosáhla 100%, což znamená, že ve všech případech bylo předcházeno jediným „determiner“, v tomto případě *what*. Na druhou stranu se objevovaly i výskyty *sort of*, kterým pod záštitou jediného českého překladového protějšku předcházely různé „determiners“. V takových případech české překladové protějšky nevykazovaly významnou preferenci k žádnému z nich (například *takový* jako ekvivalent *sort of*, jemuž v 16 případech předcházel určitý člen a ve 22 případech ukazovací zájmeno).

Nicméně, ne vždy mělo *sort of* český ekvivalent. Důvodem bylo buď vynechání ze strany překladatele nebo syntaktická restrukturalizace. Rozdíl

spočívá v tom, že při **vynechání na straně překladatele** bylo substantivum následující *sort of* přeloženo, ale *sort of* nikoli. V případě **syntaktické restrukturalizace** byla věta v překladu změněna natolik, že překladový protějšek *sort of* nebylo možné určit.

Pokud jde o výskyty ***sort of* stojící mimo jmennou frázi**, což je 97 z celkových 658 výskytů, tedy 14,74%, pak překladové protějšky nebyly zájmena nebo případná jména, ale především **příslovce nebo částice**, jako například *trochu, docela, věceméně*, nebo *nějak*. Stejně jako v případě překladů *sort of* uvnitř jmenné fráze, i tady se **český překladový protějšek ne vždy vyskytoval** z důvodů vynechání či syntaktické restrukturalizace.

Zajímavé poznatky vyplynuly i z porovnávání **frekvence používání *sort of* v jednotlivých knihách**/ mezi jednotlivými autory. Ukázalo se, že ve 22 dílech z celkových 42 se *sort of* vyskytovalo méně než desetkrát. Na druhé straně stojí pouze dvě knihy, v nichž se *sort of* vyskytlo více než 60krát – konkrétně 68krát a 79krát. Při **porovnávání výskytů *sort of* uvnitř a mimo jmennou frázi**, byl též zjištěn vztah mezi počtem výskytů a autorem/ dílem. V 17 dílech se *sort of* mimo jmennou frázi nevyskytlo ani jednou. Ve zbývajících dílech se počet výskytů pohyboval mezi jedním a čtyřmi, a pouze ve třech knihách byly výskyty více než čtyři.

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8 Anotace

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Název diplomové práce: Distribution of *sort of* in English corpora and its Czech equivalents

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Počet znaků: 110 546

Počet titulů použité literatury: 12

Klíčová slova: *sort of*, korpus, InterCorp, překladový protějšek, jmenná fráze, podstatná jména označující druh, modifikátor, determinátor

Charakteristika: Tato práce se zabývá různými funkcemi *sort of* v anglickém jazyce a způsoby, jakými se *sort of* překládá do češtiny. V teoretické části jsou funkce *sort of* popsány s důrazem na pět základních syntaktických konstrukcí, v nichž *sort of* stojí uvnitř jmenné fráze. Praktická část přináší detailní analýzu českých překladových protějšků *sort of* v anglicky psaných beletristických textech korpusu InterCorp. Subkorpus vytvořený pro tyto účely obsahuje 3 464 631 slov.

Key words: *sort of*, corpus, InterCorp, translation equivalent, noun phrase, type nouns, modifier, determiner

Characteristics: This thesis investigates the various functions of *sort of* in English and the ways in which *sort of* is translated to Czech. In the theoretical part, the various functions of *sort of* are discussed and a special attention is paid to five basic constructions of *sort of* inside the noun phrase. In the practical part, there is presented a detailed analysis of Czech equivalents of *sort of* in fiction written originally in English in the InterCorp corpus. For the purposes of this thesis, a subcorpus of 3,464,631 words was created.

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Amis, Kingsley: *Lucky Jim*

Angell, Jeanette: *Callgirl*

Asimov, Isaac: *The Caves of Steel*

Asimov, Isaac: *Reason*

Brown, Sandra: *The Crush*

Brown, Sandra: *Hello, Darkness*

Clarke, Arthur C.: *Rendezvous with Rama*

Cook, Robin: *Toxin*

Day, Cathy: *The Circus in Winter*

Doyle, Arthur Conan: *His Last Bow*

Fielding, Joy: *Puppet*

Fitzgerald, Francis Scott: *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*

Fitzgerald, Francis Scott: *The Great Gatsby*

Franzen, Jonathan: *The Corrections*

Frost, Mark: *The List of Seven*

Grisham, John: *The Street Lawyer*

Grisham, John: *The Brethren*

Grisham, John: *The Client*

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Hailey, Arthur: *The Final Diagnosis*

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