Nominal tendency in the non-native vocabulary of Czech
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Verbal morphology of Czech
Czech is a West Slavic language (Indo-European family) with 10 million speakers.

- thematic – conveys grammatical aspect (perfective vs. imperfective)
- infinitival marker
- no verbal simplex forms (single-morpheme verbs) in Czech

Loanwords in Czech
loanwords have to adopt the markers to be used as verbs
without adaptation, loanwords may appear in Czech as nouns

Research questions
What role do verbs with loan roots play compared to same-root nouns? – cf. (1)

Verbs with non-native roots resemble native verbs that are derived from nouns in:
- containing the theme ova
- not changing grammatical aspect by theme substitution
- having lower corpus frequencies than the corresponding nouns
although loan-root verbs and nouns cover the same meaning as native pairs, e.g.,
- ACTION: start ‘start’ – starovat ‘to start’, slib ‘promise’ – slib ‘to promise’;
- RESULT: prof ‘profit’ – profitovat ‘to profit’, vyhra ‘win’ – vyhrat ‘to win’;

- Loan-root nouns are preferred in terms of frequency over verbs in all semantic categories;
- the left boxplot in each color in Fig. 1

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- synthetic languages

- Czech is a West Slavic language (Indo-European family) with 10 million speakers.

- synthetic morphology with mandatory overt inflection on verbs

-债式 and verbs with loan roots play a significant role.

- Loan verbs must be adapted (re-verbialized) in the recipient language.
- confirmed as a strong tendency on 400 languages

- the formation of these verbs with non-native roots exhibit characteristics typical of denominal verbs,
- because same-root verbs occur later or not at all in Czech,
- for which the loan-root nouns are preferred (in terms of frequency) over verbs in all semantic categories;
- cf. the left boxplot in each color in Fig. 1

Graph 1. Distribution of ratios of absolute frequency counts of suffixless nouns and related verbs with non-native roots (left in each color) vs. native roots (right) in ten semantic categories: the ratio has a value greater than 1 for pairs with noun outnumbering the verbs, but a value under 1 for pairs with more frequent verbs.

- preference for loan nouns over verbs as a general tendency

- verbs with loan roots (e.g., extrahovat ‘to extract’) compete for the expression of actions not only with suffixless nouns (připravit extrakt ‘to make an extract’), but also with action nouns with loan suffixes (předovat extrakt ‘to perform extraction’)

- A. Nouns with non-native roots and suffixes can be formed in Czech

- in order to saturate the need to have nominal expressions for action meanings in the non-native vocabulary, action nouns with loan suffixes are used even if direct counterparts are not attested in foreign languages; cf. Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>suffixless noun freq.</th>
<th>suffix freq.</th>
<th>suffixed noun freq.</th>
<th>freq.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>archiv ‘archive’</td>
<td>4,325</td>
<td>archivovat ‘to archive’</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parfémovat ‘perfume’</td>
<td>1,188</td>
<td>parfémovat ‘to perfume’</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telefon ‘phone’</td>
<td>18,107</td>
<td>telefonovat ‘to call’</td>
<td>1,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pronízovat ‘protrude’</td>
<td>1,271</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Pairs of suffixless nouns and verbs with corresponding suffixed action nouns that do not have direct counterparts in other languages; absolute frequency counts from the SYN2015 corpus

- B. Loan-root nouns occur prior to verbs

action nouns with non-native roots and suffixes can be used in Czech before the verb is attested

corpus data covering the last 30 years (from five corpora of comparable size and design) that verbs appear only after the nouns; see Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anestetizovat ‘anaesthesia’</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brainstomovat ‘brainstorm’</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prokastinovat ‘procrastination’</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prokastinovat ‘transfusion’</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Suffixed action nouns and corresponding verbs with frequency counts from five corpora

- C. Nouns are the sole option for the expression of action meanings

some well-established nouns do not have verbal counterparts in Czech, even if the verbs exist in English

the nouns are the only means of referring to the actions;

- (5) ‘demise’ (with no Czech counterpart of the verb to demit)
- (6) ‘incidence’ (with no counterpart of the verb to incide)
- (7) ‘influence’ (with no counterpart of to inflate)
- (8) ‘cremation’ (with no Czech counterpart of the verb to cremate)
- (9) ‘transfusion’ (with no counterpart of to transfuse)

Conclusions
verbs with non-native roots and the corresponding suffixless nouns were compared to native noun/verb pairs with analogical internal structure in Czech
verbs with non-native roots exhibit characteristics typical of denominal verbs.

- the loan-root nouns are preferred (in terms of frequency) over verbs in all semantic categories;

- previous research and current research:

References & Acknowledgments


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