Finnish particle *ihan* and its Czech translation courterparts

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In Finnish, there is a large number of particles used to intensify or otherwise modify the meaning of adjective phrases or adverb phrases. In our presentation, we shall discuss the Finnish particle *ihan* and its translation courterparts in Czech. The particle *ihan* is very common in both speech and writing. In addition, it is interesting as a research object in the sense that it has several meanings, which are sometimes difficult to describe exactly. In our presentation, we shall firstly discuss three meanings of the word *ihan*: (1) the particle is used to indicate the extremity of a scalar property (***ihan*** *pieni* 'extremely small'), (2) the particle is used to express what is sufficient in a given context (***ihan*** *hyvä* 'sufficiently good'), and (3) the particle is used to intensify an extreme, even exaggerated property (***ihan*** *valtava* 'just enormous'). The different meanings of the particle seem to have something in common: they are associated with extremities and borders and, in addition, they are related to interpersonal aspects of language use. In our presentation, we shall also focus on how the Finnish particle is translated into Czech.

To identify the most appropriate Czech translation counterparts, we use a parallel corpus that contains Finnish-Czech translations, specifically *InterCorp v16ud Finnish – Czech*, which is freely available on the official website *www.korpus.cz*. The corpus-based approach provides a systematic and methodologically grounded way to examine how *ihan* is rendered in Czech and to determine whether certain Czech expressions consistently correspond to the various meanings of *ihan* mentioned above. By conducting a detailed analysis of the translated texts, we seek to establish whether *ihan* has a single, direct counterpart in Czech or whether its functions are distributed across multiple different lexical and grammatical means of expression. Special attention is devoted to lexical items such as *zcela* ('entirely'), *docela* ('quite'), *naprosto* ('absolutely'), *úplně* ('completely'), and *celkem* ('fairly'), as these expressions largely correspond to different nuanced meanings of *ihan* and are therefore frequent translation counterparts. However, in a significant number of cases, an alternative solution emerges in which the counterpart of *ihan* in Czech is entirely omitted, and its semantic feature is instead reflected in the selection of surrounding lexical units within the context. One of the key objectives of this study is to systematically map and analyze which of the semantic types of *ihan* tend to favor translation with a direct lexically similar equivalent and which, on the contrary, tend to be omitted in the Czech text or replaced by other linguistic means.

Used corpus:

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