



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ, MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# Celebrating EUROMOSAIC vs. language policies: the case of the Czech language

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# WHAT is the presentation ABOUT











- the EU language policy and the European Commission project EUROMOSAIC
- internal diversification of the official/national languages (regional variants)
- the case of the Czech language
- standard Czech vs. diglossia?
- situation in Moravia
- the only "genuine" grammar of Czech and the Czech National Corpus LEADERSHIP (?)

### The EU language policy and the project EUROMOSAIC









- enshrined in Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights
- EUROMOSAIC in 1992 the European Commission initiated a project to find out about the regional and minority languages (1999, 2004, 2009)

# Internal diversification (of national languages)

- national language from the functional point of view
- territorial and social criteria → varieties:
- regional dialects + interdialects (koinesation elimination of marked features)
  - sociolects (slangs, argots, etc.)
  - STANDARD language (literary language)
- functions:

representative and symbolic

- integrative
- a sign of intellectual and cultural level
- institutionalized and regulated
- a "construct"







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# The case of the Czech language

- basic facts:
- territory of 78,866 square km



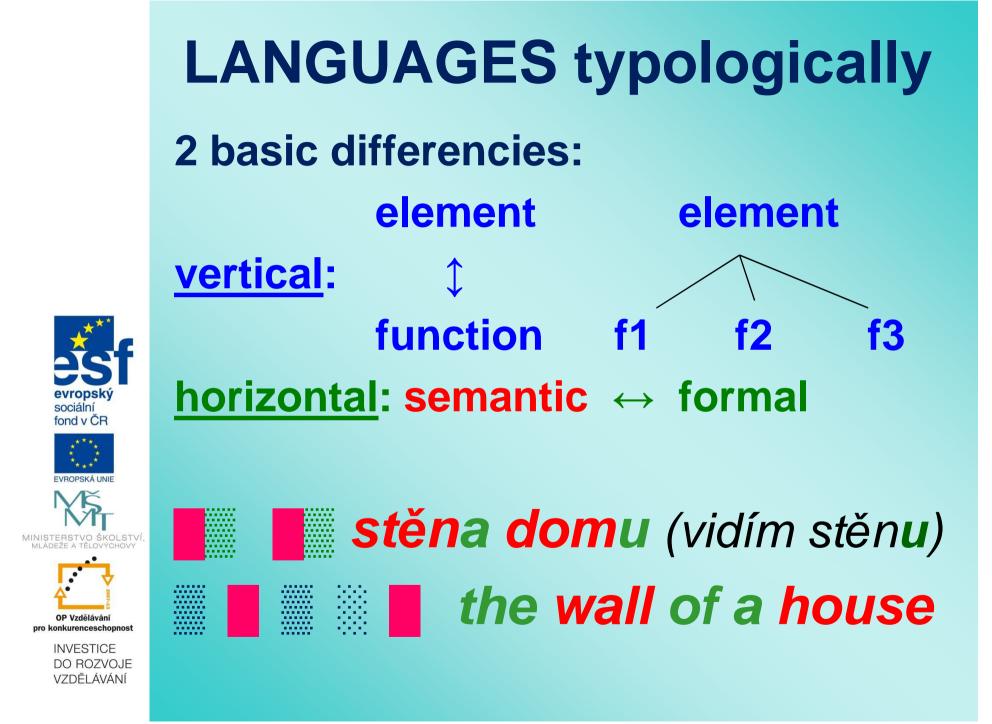








- population of 10 504 203 (according to the Czech Statistic Office – 31.12.2011)
- West Slavonic language, high linguistic proximity
- Czech from the typological view:
- = the so-called inflectional language



### Specifics of the "inflectional" word

- 1. Separate ways of inflection for nouns, verbs, and adjectives
- 2. "Cumulative segment" (morpheme):
  - Tehdy vstal a otevřel okno mouše.





pro konkurenceschopnost INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ (gender, number, case) + communicative function
3. Stylistic "values": píšu X píši (I write)



# Standard Czech vs. diglossia?

- status of STANDARD Czech
- linguistic self-confidence









- questioning the role of the so-called literary Czech:
- "violent changes of language development" (Cvrček 2010)
- a diglossia in Czech a result of a bad and elitist language policy" (Čermák 2003)

# **DIGLOSSIA?**

#### Stereotypes:

 the Czech national revival is responsible!









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#### a strong AHISTORISM

 most Czech speakers use, in their everyday speech, Common Czech X the eastern part (Moravia) = a much smaller linguistic area

more than 4 million inhabitants live in Moravia (4 146 361 of 10 504 361)

#### **Bohemia and Moravia**



















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### **Common Czech**

 spontaneous spoken language of private and semi-official communication, referred to as substandard Czech (used in Bohemia but spreading to the whole territory)

X an interdialect limited to a particular territory

 a more natural variety, presented as a contrast to Standard Czech (frustration of school childern!), suitable to be included into the codification

X a marked variety, "pragocentrismus"

 research: dialogue of 5000 words, only 10 % of the text showed ,,deviations" from the standard (Bláha 2010)

→ a DIGLOSSIA? A CODE SWITCHING?

#### evropský sociální fond v ČR







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# The only "genuine" grammar of Czech and the Czech National Corpus "LEADERSHIP" (?)

NAMES OF TAXABLE

VÁCLAV CVRČEK A KOLEKTIV AUTORŮ

JAK SE PISE A JAK SE MULWI





# Methodology

- any decision and judgement about language have to be based on modern data (Čermák 2003)
- a prerequisite to any further research, is to be found in a large, <u>representative</u> <u>CORPUS</u> (Čermák 2003)
- Václav Cvrček et al: Mluvnice současné
- češtiny 1. Prague: Karolinum, 2010.
  - the first grammar description which shows how the grammar actually looks" (Cvrček 2010)
    - the first guide that tries to describe not only written but also spoken language (Cvrček 2010)









A representative corpus of spoken language?

Prague spoken Corpus







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INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ spoken Czech in Cvrček's Mluvnice:
SÁZET = to plant (flowers), 3rd pl. (they)
% (oni) sází
% (oni) sázejí
% (oni) sázej
not used in Moravia!

- regionally marked, stylistically marked

#### "Leadership"

# of the Czech National Corpus

- statistical data
- high frequency in corpus = used (is correct)
- Prague Spoken Corpus a leading ? spoken corpus (others are ignored), a relevant base for codification?
- ambition of the grammar (Cvrček's Mluvnice) to be enforced as the school grammar
- the grammar (a set of statistical tables) as a potential base for codification disrupts the integration function of the Standard Czech
  - (leadership) DICTATORSHIP







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