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THE POSSESSION IN CZECH IN ITS INITIAL PERIOD

*The paper presents the verbs of possession in the early Czech written texts. The verb jmieti/mieti < Common Slavic *(j)ьmēti has been chosen as a kernel of the field of possession. It expresses mere possession with no other semes in its semantic structure. The relation between the two entities – possessor and possessum – is most clearly cut with this verb. Along with jmieti/mieti two other verbs – dáti and vzieti – are considered as a part of the kernel. With them the semantic structure is complicated by an additional causative seme, so that they already express a transition of the possessum from a former to a new possessor. Some verbs are situated out of the kernel but still in the frames of the field, with a third differential seme expressing several additional meanings. The increasing of the number of semes weakens the leading position of the possessive seme and this conditions the remoteness of the respective verbs from the kernel of the semantic field. As a source of empiric material the text of the chronicle of the So Called Dalimil from 1314 is used. It is one of most extent texts (about 6000 verses) from the initial period of written Czech.*

Keywords: possession, history of Czech, semantic field, semantic structure, possessive verbs
