

## Systemic Ordering in Slovak Language

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### Slovak Language

Slovak language is one of west Slavonic languages. It is very similar to Czech language, 230 from 500 most frequent lexems are the same for both languages, and 116 lexems are absolutely different. Some of the differences between Czech and Slovak languages are in the Table 1.

	Czech Language	Slovak Language
<b>Number of cases</b>	7	6 (Doesn't use vocative)
<b>Alphabet</b>	42 letters (ě, ř, ů)	46 letters (ä, dz, dž, í, ě, ô, ř)
<b>Rhythmics</b>	Ex. dávám	no two long syllables next to each other Ex. dávám
<b>Passive</b>	More passives are used, especially with imperfective verbs	
<b>Morphology</b>	More alternations and dimorphics are used Ex. brat - bratrovi, bratru	Only few dimorphics Ex. posol – posli/poslovia

Table1: Some differences between Slovak and Czech languages

Word-order in Slovak is free but the basic ordering of the sentence is following: subject – verb – object. There are very few differences in syntax between Czech and Slovak.

### Systemic Ordering

Systemic ordering says about ordering that participants and adverbials in focus. Another ordering then means that the meaning of the sentence is different. Systemic ordering for Indo-European languages could be following:

actor – time (when – since when – to when – how often – how long) – location (where) – manner – measure – instrument (mean) – direction (which way) – addressee – origine – direction (from where) – patient – direction (where) – effect – condition – aim – reason

### Some disproving examples of systemic ordering

#### Problem PATIENT –LOCATION (where)

1. *KDS chce obmedziť herne (PAT) na Slovensku (LOCATION – where).*

*L + T: KDS wants to limit gambling houses in Slovakia*

2. *V Českej republike zaháji The Swell Season rozsiahle európske turné, ktoré zahŕňa 22 koncertov (PAT) v prestížnych sálach v celkom dvanástich krajinách (LOCATION – where).*

*L: In Czech Republic will start The Swell Season large European tour, which includes 22 concerts in prestigious halls in totally twelve countries.*

*T: The Swell Season will start large European tour, that includes 22 concerts in prestigious halls in totally twelve countries, in Czech Republic.*

3. Prvou zaujímavou udalosťou bolo danie prednosti (ACT) chodcom (PAT) na Vajanského nábřeží (LOCATION – where).

L + T: First interesting event was giving the priority to the pedestrians on Vajansky Riverside.

4. Za totálny neúspech a prepad označil Ján Slota účasť voličov (PAT) na voľbách do samosprávnych krajov (LOCATION – where).

L: As a complete non-success and a failure marked Ján Slota poll of the voters on the elections to municipal regions.

T: Ján Slota marked poll of the voters on the elections to municipal regions as a complete non-success and a failure.

### **Problem PATIENT - INSTRUMENT**

5. Ako keby si spisovateľ kúpil zviazanú knihu, a potom len popísal prázdne stránky (PAT) nejakým textom (INSTRUMENT).

L: Like the writer bought an already bound book and then only wrote blank pages with some text.

T: It's like if the writer bought an already bound book and then only wrote some texts into the blank pages.

### **Problem PATIENT – TIME**

6. V bezprostrednej blízkosti provinčného mesta Pasto začala chrliť sopka (ACT) vysoká 4276 metrov popol a úlomky hornín (PAT) už v piatok (TIME – when).

L: In immediate vicinity of provincial town Pasto started eructate volcano high 4276 meter ash and parts of stones on Friday.

T: 4276 meters high volcano started to eructate ash and parts of stones on Friday.

### **Problem TIME how often**

7. Vychádza každý týždeň (TIME - how often) v piatok (TIME – when).

L: Comes out every week on Friday.

T: It comes out every week on Friday.

8. Programy ďalšieho vzdelávania pre učiteľov trvajú obyčajne dlhší čas a ich súčasťou sú rôzne kurzy, ktoré trvajú niekoľko hodín (TIME - how long) každý týždeň (TIME - how often) , v niektorých prípadoch aj dodatočné intenzívne kurzy.

L: Programs of additional education for teachers last usually longer time and their parts are various courses, which last few hours every week, in some cases also supplementary intensive courses.

T: Programs of additional education for teachers usually last longer time and various courses that last few hours every week and in some cases also supplementary intensive courses are part of them.

## **Possible explanations**

There are some possible explanations, why writer or speaker used another ordering of words as systemic ordering. For example in the first case we could consider gambling house in Slovakia as a whole phrase. Another reason could be that phrases without prepositions usually stand before prepositional phrases. Something similar happens in examples 2, 3 and 4. We would like to emphasize word or word phrase at the end of the sentence in some cases. This happens for example in sentence 6. But it's also possible, that these sentences are not very good translation from English. In some cases, word is strongly connected with previous phrase (3, 4, 7).

## **Literature**

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