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**Function of „It“ in Journalistic Style**

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### Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Cílem této bakalářské práce je zmapovat celkový výskyt anglického zájmena "it" v žurnalistickém stylu. Student nejprve nastuduje relevantní odbornou literaturu a v teoretické části podrobně vymezení jednotlivé typy, funkce a užití zájmena "it". Na začátku praktické části student popíše hlavní syntaktické rysy anglického žurnalistického stylu. V analýze student zpracuje dostatečné množství autentického jazykového materiálu a na jeho základě vymezení převažující tendence v užití tohoto zájmena, jeho výskyt a hlavní funkce. Výsledky zpracuje statisticky a interpretuje je s ohledem na daný funkční styl.

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Souhlasím s prezentováním a přístupností své práce v Univerzitní knihovně.

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Milan Jiroudek

## **Pod kování**

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## **Annotation**

This bachelor paper clarifies the use of different types of the pronoun *it* in journalistic style. The theoretical part deals with individual functions of this pronoun that are used in English language and describes their features and differences between them. This part forms a basis for the practical part which examines the occurrence of individual types of the pronoun *it* and describes other characteristic properties from the samples selected from journalistic articles. This thesis aims to examine and determine the most frequent usage of the pronoun *it* within the journalistic style and evaluate overall research findings.

## **Keywords**

Referential *it*; anticipatory *it*; introductory *it*; empty *it*; journalistic style

## **Souhrn**

Tato práce osvětluje užívání různých typů anglického zájmena *it* v žurnalistickém stylu. Teoretická část se postupně zabývá jednotlivými funkcemi zájmena *it*, které jsou využívány v anglickém jazyce a blíže popisuje jejich vlastnosti a také rozdíly mezi nimi. Tato část poskytuje podklad pro část praktickou, kde se zkoumá četnost výskytu jednotlivých typů tohoto zájmena a také další jejich charakteristické rysy. V praktické části jsou dále zkoumány vzorky zájmena *it* s ohledem na jejich funkci a formu a jsou zároveň zkoumány z hlediska daného funkčního stylu.

## **Klíčová slova**

Referenční *it*; anticipační *it*; přípravné *it*; prázdné *it*; žurnalistický styl

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# 1. Introduction

This bachelor paper concentrates on the use of different types of the pronoun *it* in journalistic style. Its main aim is to discover the occurrence of individual functions of this pronoun in journalistic style. Those are namely referential *it*, anticipatory *it*, introductory *it*, and empty *it*. Further this thesis examines their syntactical functions and also structural types that are closely connected with the use of this pronoun. Subsequently, based on the theoretical background, this paper verifies whether the referential function of *it* is the most frequent type occurring in journalistic style. The secondary objective of this particular thesis is to find out whether the features of the pronoun described in the theoretical part corresponds to those in journalistic style.

The thesis is divided into two major parts – theoretical and analytical. The theoretical part consists of four main chapters and several subchapters. Chapter two focuses on the referential use of the pronoun *it* and further describes the related term recoverability. The third chapter pays attention to the phenomenon called anticipatory *it*, concentrating on syntactic functions it can assume and explains the principle of Functional sentence perspective. In the fourth chapter, there is a description of introductory *it* and its significance as a tool used in highlighting structures. The last, fifth, chapter aims to describe the properties of empty *it*.

The analytical part begins with the chapter number six that includes the description of journalistic style. Further it reveals sources chosen for the corpus, applied methodology and, more importantly, the hypothesis itself. The seventh chapter is divided, again, into several subchapters. The first four deal with individual usages of *it* in terms of their semantic roles, syntactical functions and structural types. All this is proceeded with the respect to the given functional discourse. The last subchapter summarizes the analysis results and closes the analytical part of the paper.



## 2. Referential *it*

This chapter deals with the case of referential *it*. It is a very common and less problematic type of the usage. This is given by the fact that the pronoun *it* can address basically everything non-human, e.g. a thing, a substance, an action, a feeling, an idea or a statement. (Eastwood, 1995, p. 236) Greenbaum and Quirk develop this description and add other instances such as collectives, non-count concretes and abstractions. (1990, p. 113):

I've lost *my wallet*. I can't find *it* anywhere. (Eastwood, 1995, p. 236) [1]

*It was exhausting*. (Eastwood, 1995, p. 236) [2]

*Love* is a funny thing, isn't *it*? (Eastwood, 1995, p. 236) [3]

*The committee* met soon after *it* had been appointed. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 113) [4]

He bought *some salmon* because *it* was her favourite food. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 113) [5]

It is necessary to mention that the pronoun *it* is not connected only with a reference to a noun [3], but it can be also applied to more complex units. Those are a noun phrase [1], a clause [6], a sentence [7] or even sequences of sentences [8]. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 113):

*If you don't study for the examination*, you will regret *it*. (1990, p. 249) [6]

*It* never should have happened. *He went out and left the baby unattended*. (1990, p. 447) [7]

*After many weeks of rain the dam burst. Millions of gallons of water plunged into the valley, and villages were swept away in the flood. In a short time, thousands of square miles of low-lying ground were covered with water. (...)*

*It* led to loss of life and widespread damage to livestock and crops. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 868) [8]

The basic idea of using a substituent is to avoid repetition and redundancy. It would be inappropriate to use the same nouns or noun phrases throughout the text. It is obvious, from stylistic point of view, that such sentences cannot contain the whole subject again, because it would lead only to artificial prolonging of the text. Therefore this linguistic device makes any text in most cases more cohesive and comprehensive for both the writer and the reader. But the possibility of creating confusion is also present, nevertheless Biber et al supply that this is a concern primarily in conversation. (1999, p. 234)

## 2.1. Recoverability

Another aspect, which should be taken into account while dealing with referential *it*, is recoverability. Greenbaum and Quirk state: “In order that construction with pro-forms and ellipsis should be interpreted correctly, the full form must be recoverable.” (1990, p. 247). For this paper only the pro-forms are relevant, because the referential use of the pronoun *it* falls directly into this group. Pro-forms are actually types of words or expressions that stand in for (or express the same content as) another word, phrase or sentence where the meaning is recoverable from the text.

Recoverability can be further divided into several sections. It is positive that the description of this phenomenon is fairly unified. Biber et al (1999, p. 234), Greenbaum and Quirk (1990, p. 247), and also Kaltenböck (2003, p. 237) hold the same opinion about its division. But for the clarity of this paper, the Greenbaum and Quirk’s characterization will be followed:

1. TEXTUAL RECOVERABILITY: The full form is recoverable from a neighboring part of the text.
2. SITUATIONAL RECOVERABILITY: The full form is recoverable from the extralinguistic situation.
3. STRUCTURAL RECOVERABILITY: The full form is recoverable from knowledge of grammatical structure. (1990, p. 247)

This paper focuses on the first case of recoverability as it attempts to clearly describe the function of the pronoun *it* in journalistic style, specifically in its written form. Therefore other types will not be further examined for obvious reasons.

Considering textual recoverability, Greenbaum and Quirk further recognize its two sub-types: anaphoric, which indicates the identity of reference already established in the discourse, and cataphoric, which indicates the identity of reference to be established by what follows. (1990, p. 79) Those sentences are to demonstrate the principal of these kinds of references:

*If you don’t study for the examination, you will regret it.* (1990, p. 249)

*It never should have happened. He went out and left the baby unattended.*  
(1990, p. 447)

The main difference between those two examples is the position of the antecedent, in other words, what is substituted by the pronoun *it*. The first sentence is an instance of anaphoric reference, because the antecedent *If you don’t study for the examination* comes before the pronoun, whereas the antecedent *He went out and left the baby unattended* follows the

pronoun and therefore is an example of less frequently used cataphoric reference. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 248) Quirk et al further develop the definition of textual recoverability:

Textual recoverability is best regarded as a special case of situational recoverability; i.e. the information given elsewhere in the text is, for the purpose of the discourse, the explicit part of the situational knowledge which is available to addresser and addressee. It is natural, then, that anaphoric reference should be much more common than cataphoric reference.

(1985, p. 862)

### 2.1.1. Relationship between antecedents and pro-forms

Greenbaum and Quirk claim that the relationship between those two units is called co-reference or cross-reference. It means that they refer to the same thing or set of things. They also provide an example:

*George* was the best runner in our school, and so everyone expected that *he* would win the prize. (1990, p. 248)

In this sentence, the antecedent *George* and its pro-form *he* are clearly interchangeable and they will be understood to refer to the same person while expressing exactly the same thing.

On the other hand, Quirk et al add that not all such substitutions are cases of relationship of co-reference. This is meant in a way whether the antecedent can be copied into the position taken by its pro-form substitute without a change of meaning. This is demonstrated on following sentences:

*Two players* injured *themselves* during the match.

*Two players* injured *two players* during the match. (1985, p. 863)

The first sentence contains two phrases in italics that are co-referential – the phrase *two players* denotes the same set of persons as the phrase *themselves*. In the second sentence, replacing of *themselves* by *two players* is not possible without a change of meaning. (Quirk et al, 1985, p.863)

In many cases, a replaced element does not have to be identical with its substituent, “When we refer to a pro-form as replacing a particular syntactic form, we mean the form for which it substitutes and not necessarily the antecedent”. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 249) This statement can be supported by sample sentence used previously in the paper:

*If you don't study for the examination*, you will regret *it*.

*If you don't study for the examination*, you will regret *not studying for the examination*. (1990, p. 248-249)

To repeat, this chapter outlines the referential function of the pronoun *it*. It shows its importance in the English language system due to its wide and frequent use, especially when stylistics is taken into account. It also deals with this pronoun in the terms of recoverability and further describes relationships between this substituent and what is substituted.

### 3. Anticipatory *it*

Before focusing directly on the topic of this chapter, several words must be said about more general term called Functional sentence perspective. This phenomenon serves as an umbrella term not only for anticipatory *it*, but in the same way it is connected with the use of introductory *it*, which is described in the Chapter 4.

#### 3.1. Functional sentence perspective

In his paper, *An ABC of Functional Sentence Perspective – part one*, Svoboda analyses this issue from the point of view of the Prague Linguistic Circle\*, members of which focused on the functional aspect of the language structure, specifically on how the structures function in the very act of communication. (2005, p. 2)

The idea is that the formal analysis of a sentence, which concerns subject and predicate (a static phenomenon), should be distinguished from the functional analysis of a sentence, which consists of what is being talked about and what is being said about it (dynamic phenomenon). In such circumstances, it is necessary to say that what is being talked about is called **theme** and in many cases it is something known. What is being said about it is called **rheme** and it refers to something new or not known. (Svoboda, 2005, p. 2)

In agreement with Svoboda, Greenbaum and Quirk claim that “theme is the name we give to the initial part of any structure when we consider it from an informational point of view”. (1990, p. 397). Following that, rheme is a part of such structure that occurs at the end. This kind of operation where the most important, or new thing is placed in the final position of a clause/sentence is called end-focus. Sometimes it is even accompanied

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\* Prague Linguistic Circle (1926-1953). This linguistic school, represented by VILÉM MATHESIUS, R. JACOBSON, N. TRUBETSKOY, and other prominent linguists, was one of the branches of the stream called *functional structuralism*. While the American branch (American descriptivism) laid stress on the formal aspect of the language structure, and the Danish branch (Copenhagen glossematics) laid stress on the semantic aspect, the Prague School focused on the functional aspect, i.e., on how the structures function in the very act of communication. (Svoboda, 2005, p. 2)

with end-weight principle which implies that long, complicated or heavy structures should be stated at the end of a sentence. (1990, p. 398). This principle enables anticipatory *it* to come into operation.

### 3.2. Anticipatory *it* in the position of a subject

Following the end-weight principle, those heavy elements occurring as subjects (and less frequently as objects) should be postponed towards the end of a sentence and replaced by a substitute form. This postponement is referred to by the term **extraposition**. Such operation requires filling in the empty slot of an extraposed subject by insertion of the anticipatory pronoun *it*. The resulting sentence contains two subjects. One is the postponed subject, functioning as the notional or logical subject, the latter is the anticipatory subject *it*. (Biber et al, 1999, p. 660; Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417; Dušková a kol., 2006, p. 353; Calude, 2006, p. 6).

It should be stated that this element has been variously called “preparatory *it*”, “provisional *it*” or “introductory *it*”, but most commonly it is called “anticipatory *it*”. (Kaltenböck, 2003, p. 235-236)

The description of this phenomenon is again fairly unified among above mentioned grammarians. Unlike them, Eastwood does not distinguish anticipatory *it* from empty or introductory *it* and he calls them all empty *it*. (Eastwood, 1995, p. 59-60) Therefore his categorization will not be taken into account. To illustrate what an extraposition is, Greenbaum and Quirk provide an example sentence:

*To hear him say that* surprised me.

It surprised me *to hear him say that*. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417)

The first sentence shows an example of a long and heavy structure, which is placed at the beginning. The latter one demonstrates how this structure is postponed towards the end of the sentence. The extraposed element can be either finite clause like *It just never crossed their minds that it might happen* (Biber et al, 1999, p. 660), non-finite *to*-clause *It surprised me to hear him say that*, or non-finite *ing*-clause *It turned out to be quite enjoyable teaching her to drive*. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417) Concerning *ing*-clauses, such constructions are extraposed quite rarely and they occur commonly in informal speech where they often seem to be untidy afterthoughts. Even though extraposition is actually thematically marked, it is considered more natural or neutral. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417; Dušková a kol., 2006, p.353) This fact can be demonstrated on all major clause types:

Type SVC: It is a pleasure *to teach her*.

Type SVA: It was on the news *that income tax is to be lowered*.

Type SV: It doesn't matter *what you do*.

Type SVO: It surprised me *to hear him say that*.

Type SVOC: It makes her happy *to see others enjoying themselves*.

Type SVpass: It is said *that she wanted to go into politics*.

Type SVpassC: It was considered impossible *for anyone to escape*.

(Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417)

There is also a type of constructions, which may cause a problem, while identifying the meaning of the pronoun *it*. Those constructions involve, for example *It seems/appears/happened*. The *that*-clause which follows these verbs cannot be considered their object, but rather an extraposed subject. The reason, why they can be problematic is that they do not have their non-extraposed versions. There is no such sentence like *That everything is fine seems* which corresponds with *It seems that everything is fine*. In those cases, the use of postponed element is obligatory. With the verb *be*, this type of extraposition is used to express possibility as in *It may be that she no longer trusts you* or, especially, for reflective questions as in *Could it be that you left the keys in your office?* (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1392)

Some constructions which contain the case of anticipatory *it* are, as Quirk et al claim, typical of occurrence of particular adjectives. They divide them into three groups. The first construction is *that*-cause that has indicative verb only. Related adjectives have to do with truth or knowledge: *apparent, certain, evident, likely/unlikely, possible, clear, obvious, implicit, true/untrue, well-known, etc.* Example sentence: It is true that she never *comes* on time. The second type is *that*-clause that has putative *should*, or subjunctive verb (or marginally, also, an indicative verb). Adjectives used in this type of sentences express concepts concerned with modality or volition: *appropriate, compulsory, important, fitting, vital, impossible, essential, proper/improper, crucial, etc.*, plus various adjectives ending in *-able*: *advisable, desirable, preferable, etc.* Example sentence: It is essential that the ban *should be* lifted tomorrow / *be* lifted tomorrow / *is* lifted tomorrow. The last construction is *that*-clause that has indicative verb or putative *should*. This group consists mainly of emotive adjectives, and includes lot of participial adjectives ending in *-ing*: *awkward, curious, sad, silly, tragic, unfortunate, logical, alarming, annoying, pleasing, shocking, etc.*, plus various *-able / -ible* adjectives: *admirable, remarkable, incomprehensible, etc.* Example sentence: It is strange / upsetting that she *is* so late / she *should be* so late. (1985, p. 1224)

As the last thing in this sub-chapter, it is important to mention that, as Quirk et al state, clauses with extraposed subjects must be distinguished from superficially similar clauses in which the pronoun *it* has a function of a personal pronoun [1] (see Chapter 2) or empty subject [2] (see Chapter 5):

*It's good to eat. (This (fish, etc.) is good to eat.)* [1]

*It's a lovely weather to go fishing.* [2] (1985, p. 1392)

Further they add *if*- and *when*-clauses, which can act very much like extraposed subjects in sentences like:

*It would be a pity, if we missed the show.*

*It'll be a great day when you win the sweepstake.* (1985, p. 1392)

But in these sentences, such clauses appear to be adverbials rather than extraposed subjects. For other marginal cases see Quirk et al, 1985.

### 3.3. Anticipatory *it* in the position of an object

Similarly to the subject location, it is possible to place anticipatory *it* into the position of an object. Nevertheless, Dušková supplies that extraposed objects are to be found less frequently than their subject equivalents. (2006, p.551) Further, she continues with the information that such postponed objects can take a form of either a *to*-infinitive clause or a *that*-clause. (2006, p. 430) Greenbaum and Quirk add another instance, which is an *ing*-clause. According to them, if the object is an *ing*-clause in SVOC or SVOA clause type, it can undergo extraposition, but, as it was pointed out in the Chapter 3.2., non-extraposed *ing*-clause is more natural. When *to*-infinitive clause and *that*-clause are taken into account, extraposition is inevitable. (1990, p. 417) To support this statement they provide several examples:

#### SVOC

You must find *it* exciting *working here*.

Cf: You must find *working here* exciting.

*Working here* is exciting.

I made *it* my objective *to settle the matter*.

Cf: I made *to settle the matter* my prime objective.

*To settle the matter* was my prime objective.

#### SVOA

Something put *it* into his head *that she was a spy*.

Cf: Something put *that she was a spy* into his head.

Something put *the idea of her being a spy* into his head.

Other constructions that can involve an extraposed object are some transitive phrasal verbs. Those are for example *let (it) out*, *noise (it) around/abroad*, *put (it) about*, or *rub (it) in*:

Jack *let (it) out* (=divulged) that the animal had been stolen. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1184)

Such cases, in which *it* acts as anticipatory object, allow the omission of this pronoun, but it is not usual. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1184) Dušková supports this fact by saying that the use of anticipatory *it* is optional, depending on the verb used in the sentence e.g. *We would greatly appreciate (it) if you would lend us your support.* (2006, p. 430)

At the end of this chapter, it is important to point out main reasons for incorporating the extraposition into English language. Firstly, it is a device used to place information into focal position, in other words to follow end-focus and end-weight principle. Secondly, it enables to create wide range of sentence forms for adjusting the development of communicative dynamism and lastly, it serves to express speaker's evaluative opinion by using phrases like *It is unusual that...* (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 417)

## **4. Introductory *it***

This chapter provides a description of another usage of the pronoun *it* – introductory *it*. The procedure, in which it is used, is called clefting. Clefting can be further divided into two parts - *it*-clefts (cleft sentences) and *wh*-clefts (pseudo-cleft sentences). (Quirk, Greenbaum, 1973, p. 414,417; Biber et al, 1999, p. 958) But, as the topic of this paper indicates, it will be dealt only with the case of *it*-clefts.

### **4.1. Cleft sentences**

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973, p. 414) together with Biber et al (1999, p. 958) claim that, as the name suggests, the principle of creating cleft sentences is division. A single clause is divided into two separate parts, each containing its own verb. The main reason for using those constructions is to give a chosen element prominence or special focus. Biber et al also provide a detailed description of what such structure consists of. Firstly, it is the pronoun *it* (used there to fill in an empty thematic position), which is then followed by a form of the verb



*be*. Sometimes the verb *be* is accompanied by the negator *not* or an adverb such as *only*. Next in order is the element which is chosen to be highlighted. It could be a noun phrase [1], a prepositional phrase [2], an adverb phrase [3], or an adverbial clause [4]. The last part of an *it*-cleft is a relative-like dependant clause introduced by *that*, *who/which* or zero, whose last element receives normal end-focus. (1999, p. 959) To demonstrate this statements they give these examples:

His eyes were clear and brown and filled with an appropriate country slyness.

*It was his voice* that held me. [1]

*It was only for the carrot* that they put up with his abominable parties. [2]

*It is here* that the finite element analysis comes into its own. [3]

*It was because they were frightened*, he thought, that they had grown so small. [4] (1999, p. 959)

In his paper “*Clefting and extraposition in English 2*”, Calude points out other possibilities such as finite and/or non-finite clauses *It's that he's so self-satisfied that I find off-putting* or *It's certainly not to make life easier for us that they are changing the rules*, and adjectival phrases like *It wasn't green I told you to paint it*. (Calude, 2006, p. 5)

From what was said above, it is apparent that almost every clause element can be highlighted by using cleft sentences, except for the case of verbs. This opinion is held by Dušková (2006, p.353) and also by Quirk and Greenbaum (1973, p. 415). Quirk et al demonstrate the flexibility of *it*-clefts on the sentence *John wore a white suit at the dance last night*:

S as focus: *It was John* who/that wore a white suit at the dance last night.

O<sub>d</sub> as focus: *It was a white suit* (that) John wore at the dance last night.

A<sub>time</sub> as focus: *It was last night* (that) John wore a white suit at the dance.

A<sub>position</sub> as focus: *It was at the dance* (that) John wore a white suit last night. (1985, p. 1385)

Other clause elements that can marginally act as the initial focus of a cleft sentence are O<sub>i</sub> – *It's me* (that) *he gave the book*. But O<sub>i</sub> would be usually replaced by a prepositional phrase – *It's me* *he gave the book to*. / *It's to me* *that he gave the book*. In the sentence *It is dark green that we've painted the kitchen*, what is highlighted is C<sub>o</sub>. It is also acceptable to use C<sub>s</sub> in this function – *It was a doctor* *that he eventually became*, but there are severe restrictions in English on such use, especially when the verb at the end of the second clause is *be* and when C<sub>s</sub> is realized by an adjective phrase - *?It's very tall* *you are*. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1385) Regarding verbs, Quirk and Greenbaum add: “Verbs do not occur at all as focus, but the

restriction is sometimes circumvented by using the verb in a non-finite form and substituting *do* for it in the second part of the sentence”. For instance *It’s teaching that he **does** for a living.* (1973, p. 415)

Other feature of cleft sentences that should be taken into account is the verb form in the first clause of a sentence. Though it is usually simple present or past, forms with modals are perfectly possible – *It **may be** his father that you re thinking of.* Sometimes, decision between present and past may be complicated. When the verb in the second clause is present, the verb in the first clause will be present – *It is novels that Miss Williams enjoys reading.* Where the second verb is past, the first can always be past – *It was novels that Miss Williams enjoyed as a pastime.* Nevertheless, it is possible to have the first verb in the present and the second in the past when “the persons concerned are still living or the objects concerned still familiar in the participants’ experience” – *It is Miss Williams that enjoyed reading novels as a pastime.* Further it should be stated that that the cleft sentence structure can be used in questions – *Was it for this that we suffered and toiled?*, exclamations – *What a glorious bonfire it was you made!*, subordinate clauses – *He told me that it was because he was ill that they decided to return.* (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 1386)

A short comment should be also given about the character of the final part of the cleft sentence. As it was mentioned at the beginning of this sub-chapter, Biber et al characterize it as “relative-like dependant clause”. This is, according to Quirk and Greenbaum, because its structure is similar to the restrictive relative clause, in which the pronouns *who*, *that* and “zero” pronoun are used to introduce it as well as it is in cleft sentences. However, the difference from relative clause lies in the fact that the *wh*-forms are used quite rarely, comparing it with *that* or *zero*, and also in the intonation. Examples follow:

*It was the **DÓG** I gave the **WÁTer** to.* (dog is focus in cleft sentence)

*It was the dog I gave the **WÁTer** to.* (dog is head of postmodified noun phrase)

(1973, p. 416)

It is necessary to mention that even though cleft sentences are used very commonly in spoken English to give special prominence to the intended information, they are particularly convenient, for the same reason, in writing where intonation is absent. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 412)

## **4.2. Difference between introductory *it* and anticipatory *it***

This sub-chapter deals with the issue of distinguishing introductory *it* from anticipatory *it* (for anticipatory *it* see Chapter 3). It concerns specifically the difference

between *it* used in *it*-cleft constructions and constructions with extraposition where the pronoun *it* is followed by the verb *be* in the superordinate clause, as in:

*It is pointless complaining to the head manager.* (Calude, 2006, p. 8)

Even though these two phenomena are treated separately, they show several similar features. First, they are both examples of thematically marked word order and they both contain the pronoun *it* placed in the position of theme. When the structure of these constructions is taken into account, *it* works here as an initial element. What follows is the verb *be*, then it is the focused element in cleft sentences/the remaining part of the predicate of the main clause in extraposition, and again, in both cases, a relative-like clause. (Calude, 2006, p. 8-9)

Nevertheless, Calude presents in his paper a simple rule, which helps to distinguish between *it*-clefts and this specific kind of extraposition. First step it to eliminate the pronoun *it* from the sentence. Then the sentence-final clause should be moved to the front of the sentence. If the newly formed construction is grammatical, then the original structure is an example of extraposition. If it is not, it means that the original structure is a cleft sentence. He demonstrates this procedure on two examples:

...it was very hard *for him to get taken*...

For him to get taken was very hard (Grammatical Extraposition)

...it's only the very odd occasions *someone else works*...

Someone else works is only the very odd occasions. (Ungrammatical Cleft)  
(2006, p. 16-17)

Using this rule can help in most cases when it is necessary to tell the difference between those two grammatical elements. Calude (2006, p. 18) points out that it may cause some problems while applying it to spoken language, but as this paper deals with written form of journalistic style, it will not be a concern.

## 5. Empty *it*

The last type of the usage of the pronoun *it* can be described as empty *it*. Quirk et al. claim that “since it is the most neutral and semantically unmarked of the personal pronouns, *it* is used as an “empty” or “prop” subject, especially in expressions denoting time, distance, or atmospheric conditions.” (1985, p. 348) They also give specific examples of this kind of usage:

- |                        |   |     |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| What time is it?       | It's half past five.                            | [1] |
| How far is it to York? | It's a long way from here to Cairo.             | [2] |
| It's warm today.       | It's been fine weather recently. (1985, p. 349) | [3] |

The reason why the pronoun *it* is present in these sentences is that they have to be grammatically correct. Since there is no participant required, the subject function may be assumed by the prop word *it*. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 748) The same opinion is held also by Biber et al, who say that in such occurrences is necessary to fill the subject slot. (1999, p. 332)

In many cases a clause containing empty or prop *it* has its counterpart clause in which a locative or temporal phrase is the subject. Such correspondence can be demonstrated on the sentence *It's Sunday tomorrow* and its variation *Tomorrow is Sunday*. Here, the subject complement refers to a period of time and an adverbial is present in the form of a noun phrase. Sentences *It's our wedding anniversary next month / Next month is our wedding anniversary* might appear quite analogous to the first example, but they are different. In the first set of sentences *tomorrow* is identified as *Sunday* where *Sunday* functions as subject complement and identifying attribute, whereas in the second set *next month* seems to be a fronted adverbial with consequent subject-verb inversion. This can be also applied to the sentence where a prepositional phrase containing a noun phrase is present e.g. *It's too windy in Chicago / Chicago is too windy*. The exception is when the verb is not a copula e.g. *It's raining in Manchester / Manchester is raining*. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 749)

For better understanding of prop *it*, it is important to distinguish it from other, seemingly analogous, varieties, especially from the introductory *it* [4] (see Chapter 4) and the anticipatory *it* [5] (see Chapter 3). As it was mentioned, example [4] and other similar structures are called cleft sentences. Their main purpose is to highlight chosen sentence element. In this case it is an adverbial of place. Example [5] follows the rule that it is not appropriate to begin sentences with a long subject. So the original subject is replaced by the pronoun *it* and moved to the end, nevertheless, it remains the notional subject of the same sentence:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| It must have been here that I first met her.                       | [4] |
| Isn't a shame that they lost the game? (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 349) | [5] |

As Quirk et al say: "This prop *it*, if it has any meaning at all, refers quite generally to the time or place of the event or state in question," such as in [1] and [2]. Regarding examples [4] and [5], they also add that "it can be maintained that the pronoun is not quite void of meaning, since it arguably has cataphoric reference (forward reference) to a clause in the later part of the same sentence." (1985, p. 349)

Further, they claim that probably the best case of a completely empty or non-referring *it* can be found in idioms in which *it* follows a verb and has vague implications of “life in general”, etc., and they supply several examples:

At last we’ve made *it*. (achieved success)

have a hard time of *it* (to find life difficult)

make a go of it (to make a success of something)

stick it out (to hold out, to preserve)

How is it going?

Go it alone.

You’re in for it. (You are going to be in trouble.) (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 349)

It should be mentioned that the usage of the pronoun *it* as empty is not restricted only to the subject slot but the above mentioned phrase *have a hard time of it* clearly demonstrates that it can occur also in the position of an object. An example sentence follows:

He had a hard time of *it* in the army. (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 113)

To summarize, empty or prop *it* is to be found mostly in expressions denoting time, distance, or atmospheric conditions, having some generalized reference to the environment in given context. Nevertheless, it is possible to make such environment more specified by a locative or temporal phrase as in *It was very chilly in my bedroom, etc.* (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 749)

The description of empty *it* concludes not only the fifth chapter, but it also concludes the whole theoretical part of this thesis. Before continuing to the second part of the thesis, research and analysis, the short summary of the theoretical part is provided to repeat the key points. The second chapter gives an insight into the referential use of the pronoun *it* and into the related phenomenon called recoverability. With anticipatory *it* is dealt in the third chapter. This chapter describes what functional sentence perspective is and it also explains that such constructions, involving anticipatory *it*, occur in structures known as extraposition where *it* replaces an extraposed subject or an extraposed object. The chapter number four focuses on the characteristics of introductory pronoun *it*, stating that the main reason for its usage is to give a chosen element prominence or special focus. Further, it includes an intelligible manual to be employed to distinguish between the case of anticipatory and introductory *it*. The last theoretical chapter, the fifth, is devoted to empty *it*, explaining that it functions as a filler of a subject slot in a sentence where there is no participant needed and that sometimes, but less frequently, it can be found in the position of an empty object. The chapter that follows begins the analytical part of this paper.

## 6. Introduction to the research

### 6.1. Journalistic style

Considering the purpose of newspapers, it is not enough to say that the objective is only to inform, but mainly to get across an interpretation of information and to persuade a reader of its accuracy. To achieve such a goal, journalistic style uses particular language devices, which are designed to attract readers' attention. In writing, it is important to make an effort to communicate any information as accurately as possible, because unlike in spoken language, there is a need to express all circumstances, time and place so that a reader can imagine the whole situation. (Urbanová, Oakland, 2002, p. 36)

Similar description is provided by Crystal and Davy. They also add other feature of any newspaper and this is that, from the stylistic point of view, it is always eclectic. There are many items in newspaper pages e.g. articles, reviews, advertising and imaginative writings of various kinds, which are published in different newspapers and written by different journalists. Even though they have certain amount in common, their overall styles are very different and not linguistically homogenous. (1997, p.173)

Reah distinguishes three kinds of newspapers. Firstly, it is the broadsheet newspapers (e.g. the *Telegraph*, the *Guardian*), secondly, the middle-range tabloids (e.g. the *Daily Mail*) and lastly the tabloids (e.g. the *Sun*, the *Mirror*). Likewise Crystal and Davy, he states that newspapers contain news, comment and analysis, entertainment, advertising, etc., but he also comment on the differences among them concerning how large part is devoted to above-mentioned items. Reah illustrates it by comparison between the *Guardian* and the *Sun*. While the *Guardian* contained 41% of pages of news and 18% of pages of sports and entertainment, the *Sun* contained 28% of pages of news and 29% of pages of sports and entertainment. (2003, p. 2-3). These figures correspond with the definition of the term *broadsheet* given by Rundell et al. which says that broadsheets incorporate more serious news than tabloids. (2007, p. 180)

In general, the style of newspapers tends to be clear and concise and has a condensed character. It uses mostly declarative sentences, which are usually found in past tense but sometimes also in present tense, and are shorter for the sake of easy reading. (*The Newspaper Style* [online]) Other features, applicable for this thesis, follow. Firstly, it is referencing – mainly anaphoric (backward) reference to something which was established earlier in the text. Cataphoric (forward) reference is also possible, but what it is referred to must be clearly

defined from some previous utterance, or be unambiguously implicit in the extra-linguistic context. Secondly, it is the use of prop (empty) words. (Crystal and Davy, 1997, p. 185) Thirdly, as it was mentioned in the Chapter 3.3, anticipatory *it* gives space to writers to express their evaluative opinion about various things. Since a newspaper tries to persuade a reader about its truth, it is one of the options to do so. And lastly, the usage of introductory *it* as a mean of highlighting structure makes any statement stronger and has a greater impact on a reader, which is intended.

## 6.2 Source for the corpus, hypothesis and methodology

Before giving close attention to the research part, its form and aim is to be clarified. In order to examine the occurrence of the four different types of the pronoun *it* in journalistic style, 149 sample sentences containing this pronoun were gathered. Some of these sentences are present in the corpus more than once because they contain more than one case of *it*. The sources of primary data used for this paper were British online newspapers as they are most easily to be obtained here, in the Czech Republic. Those newspapers were namely *bbc.co.uk*, *guardian.co.uk*, and *telegraph.co.uk*.

All these 149 instances of the pronoun *it* were detected and evenly distributed in 25 journalistic articles from the three above mentioned newspapers (*bbc.co.uk* – 9 articles, *guardian.co.uk* 8 – articles, *telegraph.co.uk* – 8 articles). Also several different categories were chosen – daily news (4 articles), culture (3 articles), sport and health (5 articles), business (5 articles), science and technology (3 articles) and life&style (5 articles).

The corpus of the analysis samples is arranged in the appendix according to their semantic type and then they are ordered by their structural type and syntactic function in the sentence. It would be inappropriate and space consuming for this thesis to present whole articles in the corpus so it includes only the sentences containing *it* and other sentences which are necessary for its categorization. Nevertheless, the access to these complete sources of primary data is properly cited in the bibliography section. For better clarity of the corpus, some parts of the sentences have modified font of the text. Concerning referential *it* – the pronoun *it* is boldfaced and the structure it refers to is underlined; anticipatory *it* – the pronoun is boldfaced and the extraposed structure is underlined; empty *it* – the pronoun is boldfaced; and introductory *it* – the pronoun is boldfaced and the highlighted structure is underlined. The semantic roles are ordered according to the highest occurrence in the corpus. All samples are numbered, each of them having also a reference number to the article they are extracted from.

The hypothesis emerges from the theoretical background of this paper. Since the textual reference, especially the anaphoric one, is a very typical feature of journalistic style, it predicts the most frequent occurrence of the referential *it*. This statement is supported by the vast variety of possibilities this pronoun can refer to. From the stylistic point of view, it is also not appropriate to use the same nouns, noun phrases, etc., throughout the text so pronouns are very convenient means of such substitution and, at the same time, they help to make the text more condensed, which the style of newspapers tends to be.

This paper, in its analytical part, deals mainly with quantitative analysis, but qualitative aspects were taken into account as well. Quantitative analysis aims to state how frequently individual types of the pronoun *it* occur in the journalistic style and also discover their form and function. The purpose of qualitative analysis is to find out whether the properties and features of pronouns *it* in the corpus correspond to those described in the theoretical part.

## **7. Analysis**

This chapter is to analyze and report final results of the research concerning different functions of the pronoun *it*. All these four functions are introduced according to their occurrence in the corpus, which makes a subtle change from the sequence they were presented in the theoretical part of the thesis. The samples from the corpus are examined with regard to the investigated discourse in terms of their semantic roles, syntactic functions and structural types. Sometimes, subchapters provide additional information and comments on other features typical for individual types of *it*. The last subchapter assesses the overall results and provides the conclusion to the research part.

### **7.1 Referential *it***

This subchapter investigates the referential function of the pronoun *it*. It was the most frequent case to be found in the corpus. It was discovered 110 times, thus making 74% of all samples comprised in the whole corpus. Further, those samples were examined with respect to how large unit of text they refer to so the features of referential *it* can be described more clearly and precisely. Those were a noun, a noun phrase, a clause and a sentence. The last possible unit mentioned in the theoretical part, sequence of sentences, was not encountered at all. These four kinds of references were detected in following percentages – reference to a noun [1.] – 22 times (20%), reference to a noun phrase [31.] – 76 times (69%), reference to a clause [106.] – 8 times (7%), reference to a sentence [107.] – 4 times (4%). Examples sentences follow (numbering of the examples is identical with the one in corpus and this way



it is applied onwards):

1. Lead author Prof Max Parkin said: "Many people believe cancer is down to fate or 'in the genes' and that it is the luck of the draw whether they get **it**. **A3**

31. The government said **it** was intending to begin a consultation on plain packaging by the end of this year. **A3**

106. When Moss appeared on the cover of the Face in 1990 with an image taken from this session (the rest ran inside), **it** marked nothing less than the transition from the 80s to the 90s. **A23**

107. New Zealand kept rates unchanged at 2.5%, while South Korea held its cost of borrowing at 3.25%. **It** comes after Australia's central bank lowered interest rates on Tuesday. **A4**

As it was mentioned in the chapter 2, the basic idea of using substituent is to avoid repetition and redundancy. It would be inappropriate to use the same nouns or noun phrases throughout the text. It is obvious, from stylistic point of view, that such sentences cannot contain the whole subject again, because it would lead only to artificial prolonging of the text. Considering the syntactic function of the pronoun *it* used as a form of substitution, in 73% it assumed the role of a subject. The only case that did not include *it* in the position of an object was when the pronoun referred to a sentence. Such reference is of course possible, nevertheless, due to the low occurrence of a sentence reference, in comparison with other cases from the corpus, it was not encountered.

Focusing on the relationship between the substituent and what is substituted, example [1.] clearly demonstrates the relationship of co-reference. It was already explained in the chapter 2.1.1 that co-reference means whether the antecedent (=what is substituted) can be copied into the position taken by its pro-form (=substituent) without a change of meaning. In the sentence *Many people believe cancer is down to fate or 'in the genes' and that it is the luck of the draw whether they get it*, there the pronoun *it* that follows the verb *get* can be unambiguously replaced by the word *cancer*, which *it* refers to, maintaining the same meaning *Many people believe cancer is down to fate or 'in the genes' and that it is the luck of the draw whether they get cancer*. Different situation occur in the example:

78. After we took the spool off there was a cigarette paper with coded writing on **it**," Mr Martin said. **A17**

If the phrase *a cigarette paper* is copied into the position of the pronoun *it*, the resulting sentence *After we took the spool off there was a cigarette paper with coded writing on a cigarette paper," Mr Martin said* could possibly mean that there were two different cigarette papers, which would change the nature of the situation. Such interpretations can only put readers in doubt and force them to make their own conclusions, which might be more or less different from reality. And this is not intended by any journalist as they tried to present information as accurately as possible. Further it should be mentioned that such instances were to be found in the corpus very rarely and most of the samples showed the relationship of co-

reference. However, with the regard to the stylistics, all samples also showed that the substitution by the pronoun *it* used in them was in its place since it made the text more readable.

There are many cases, following Greenbaum and Quirk's statement, where a replaced element does not have to be identical with its substituent. "When we refer to a pro-form as replacing a particular syntactic form, we mean the form for which it substitutes and not necessarily the antecedent". (1990, p. 249). This phenomenon was discovered only when *it* referred to a clause or a sentence. When the pronoun referred to a noun or a noun phrase, the antecedent almost never changed and if, the change was very subtle:

76. Inside the barrel was a small slip of paper containing a coded message. "I said 'I wonder if **it's** a secret message' and it was. **A17**

Rearranging of this sentence would change only the determiner from indefinite article to definite article or demonstrative *I wonder if the/this small slip of paper [...]*. Greater change appeared when *it* substituted a clause:

102., 103. "They were obliged to pass it to parliament or to the justice system. They didn't do **it**, and they should be in prison for **it**." **A19**

The new structure would go like this: *They were obliged to pass it to parliament or to the justice. They didn't pass it pass it to parliament or to the justice, and they should be in prison for not passing it to parliament or to the justice*. Even though putting antecedent in the place of its pro-form in such case did not change the meaning of the utterance, it made the text chaotic a something which would be not appreciated by any reader.

Another aspect of the use of referential *it*, with which is dealt in this particular paper, is recoverability. As stated in the chapter 2.1, three types of recoverability are recognized – textual, situational and structural. Situational recoverability means that the full form is recoverable from the extralinguistic situation, and structural recoverability means that the full form is recoverable from knowledge of grammatical structure. The roles of those two are not important for this analysis and therefore they are not taken into account. What is necessary to consider is textual recoverability as the thesis focuses on the written form of journalistic style. According to Greenbaum and Quirk, there are two subtypes of textual recoverability – anaphoric and cataphoric. Both two references were detected in the data collected in the corpus. But as Crystal and Davy suggested (see chapter 6.1) the cataphoric reference occurred less often than the anaphoric one. The numbers speak clearly – out of 110 cases of referential *it*, only two of them referred forwardly in the text:

8. "And **it's** such a mess," as I heard over and over again, about which I only concur. Menstruation should not have to curtail childhood adventures, but somehow it does. **A15**

61. In fairness to the judges, they've been there for two days on the trot, rating sausages on filling, texture, taste and appearance ("What is **it** saying to you?" head judge Keith Fisher asks me earnestly at one point, as we inspect a pork-and-apple number). **A13**

In both these pieces of text, *it* indicates the identity of reference to be established by what follows. It is noteworthy, though, that the structures in which they appeared were direct speeches. These utterances would make no sense if they were taken out of the context, because they refer to some extralinguistic item from the process of communication. If the sentences were rewritten into indirect, or reported, speech, which is more typical for newspapers, the cataphoric reference would most probably change into anaphoric – 8. *Menstruation is such a mess [...]. It should not have to curtail childhood adventures, but somehow it does; 61. Head judge Keith Fisher asked me at one point what a pork-and-apple number was saying to me as we were inspecting it.* Any typical sentence like *It never should have happened. He went out and left the baby unattended.* (Greenbaum, Quirk, 1990, p. 447) representing cataphoric reference was not found in the whole corpus, which altogether make the cataphoric reference an untypical feature of written journalistic style. Unlike that, anaphoric reference occurred very frequently, and therefore it belongs to the usual characteristics of newspapers. Several examples follow:

13. It is a taboo that deprives the young of support at a time when they acutely need **it**. **A15**

31. The government said **it** was intending to begin a consultation on plain packaging by the end of this year. **A3**

68. Periods at 11 seemed young then, today **it** is increasingly the norm. **A15**

Even though examining the samples obtained from chosen online newspapers concerning referential use of the pronoun *it* was in most cases unequivocal, a few problematic cases were encountered:

21. Many still have hope that agreement can be found. "There's a number of factors involved and **it** is quite complex," said Steve Campbell [...]. **A20**

67. The company has not had any venture capital funding; instead Lilley and Davis have part-funded the business themselves [...]"We could conceivably have taken [venture capital] funding," says Lilley, "but **it** would no longer be our business." **A14**

In both these examples, it may cause troubles to identify what function is assumed by *it*. In the sample 21, the pronoun functions as anaphoric reference to the noun *agreement*. Nevertheless, one might consider it an empty subject. The reason is that a reader does not have to see it as a reference to the word *agreement*, but it is possible to see the clause *it is quite complex* as a comment on the situation and circumstances in which it is hard to reach this agreement, which is not the case. The sample number 67 shows similar features. *It* there refers to *the company*. But one could also say that this is just an expression which is used to

express that “no one cares about someone/something” or “no one is affected by someone/something” and has implication of life in general. Therefore this *it* should be considered again an empty subject. But from the context, it is obvious that the company would no longer be their business because they would become only junior partners, but not because they would not care about it anymore.

Another difficulty arose while investigating samples number 74 and 145:

74. A girl who began her periods at 10 confided: “I felt that my classmates blamed me – thought that I must be doing things I shouldn’t and that had brought **it** on’ **A15**

145. Childhood obesity has been blamed, but it is uncertain whether weight gain is a trigger for puberty, or a consequence of it (I was tall, but in proportion; the girl who beat me to **it** at primary school was slight). **A15**

In the sample 145, there is *it* which, at first sight, has all appearance of referential pronoun. But from the surrounding text, it is not clear to what it should refer to. And as a deeper analysis showed, *it* in the phrase *beat someone to it* is a part of an idiom meaning *to do something before someone else* (Rundell et al, 2007, p. 114). Therefore *it* in this sentence is an empty object having again implication of life in general. Other examples of these structures are *At last we’ve made it (achieved success)*, *You’re in for it (You are going to be in trouble)*. (Quirk et al, 1985, p. 349) The sample 74 seems to show similar features as the previous one. The phrase *bring it on* is used to say to let someone know that one is prepared and willing to compete in a competition or to do something difficult (Rundell et al, 2007, p. 178), but this is not the case. Here it is a transitive verb taking an object and the function of *it* is purely referential.

The last two phenomena that might cause difficulties while analyzing the referential *it* are as follows. Firstly, it is a little misleading when the antecedent is mentioned only once in a long piece of the text and than it is referred to it several times, while adding other facts. A reader might get confused about what part of the text the pro-form represents:

36. – 40. Analysis has been made more difficult by the fact that the precise terms of the draft code have changed many times since **it** initially entered the lower house of parliament earlier in the year. **It** must go back to the lower house and be signed off by the president before becoming law. The Ruralist bloc of parliamentarians, which first proposed the changes in the 46-year old code, believes **it** will increase Brazil’s food production and simplify rules for farmers. But environment groups believe **it** will damage forests, rivers and wildlife. [...] But how far **it** is prepared to go towards meeting the ambition set out by the EU, [...]. **A6**

And secondly, when *it* refers to a noun phrase, sometimes it could be difficult to identify the head of the phrase with all its modifiers that to this phrase inseparably belongs. Example 44 shows that the head *proposal* is not only pre-modified, but it is also highly post-modified:

44. Initially markets rose on the back of Mr Van Rompuy's proposal to combine the firepower of the EFSF and European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to create a €900bn bail-out fund. However when asked if Germany would consider **it**, an official said: "No." **A7**

A short comment should be made on the occurrence of referential *it* depending on the length of individual articles. It is known that this pronoun and all pronouns in general are widely used to refer to things people talk or write about. So it would be expected that the longer the article is the more pronouns is used in the body of the text as they are pointing back to the topic or other things mentioned in the article. But the analysis showed that such direct proportionality does not work here. Articles number 2 and 4 are taken as examples. Article number 2 consisted of approximately 750 words and only one of them was the case of referential pronoun *it*. On the other hand, article number 4 consisted of approximately 350 words and 3 of them were *it* having the function as in the previous article.

To conclude this subchapter devoted to the analysis of referential *it*, it provided a description of findings, specifically the overall occurrence, types of the text units this pronoun referred to, anaphoric and cataphoric reference, syntactic function and several troublesome phenomena. All this was demonstrated on 23 samples from the corpus.

## **7.2 Anticipatory *it***

Subchapter 7.2 focuses on extraposition, in other words, the use of anticipatory *it*. This was the second most common case discovered in the corpus. There, it appeared 21 times and that made 14% of all samples. Further, these particular samples were divided into two groups according to their syntactic function. There were two cases (10%) when anticipatory *it* assumed the function of an object and nineteen (90%) cases when it was found in the subject position. Regarding their structural properties, only non-finite *to*-clause made the two occurrences in the position of an object. The latter type was represented by twelve instances of finite clause (63%), five instances of non-finite *to*-clause (26%), and two instances of non-finite *ing*-clause (11%).

The basic principal and purpose of extraposition is to place heavy elements occurring as subjects (and less frequently as objects) towards the end of a sentence. Such operation requires filling in the empty slot of an extraposed subject by insertion of the anticipatory pronoun *it*. The resulting sentence contains two subjects. One is the postponed subject functioning as the notional or logical subject, the latter is the anticipatory subject *it* (more on this is to be found in the chapter 3.2). Following samples demonstrate this procedure:

112. "Why do you think **it** is in the national interest to tell your backbenchers one thing to quell a rebellion on Europe and tell your European partners another?" A1

116. "[...], **it** remains prudent for now to keep the official cash rate on hold," said Reserve Bank of New Zealand Governor Alan Bollard in a statement. A4

Both sentences are examples of subject extraposition where non-finite *to*-clause is postponed to the end. Even though extraposed structures are, according to Greenbaum and Quirk (1990, p. 417) more natural and neutral, considering the sample number 116, its non-extraposed version would be still quite clear and would not be cause of any confusion – *to keep the official cash rate on hold remains prudent for now*. Different situation occur when the sample sentence number 112 it to be treated the same way - "*Why do you think to tell your backbenchers one thing to quell a rebellion on Europe and tell your European partners another is in the national interest?*". Such structure is comparatively more chaotic and very inappropriate. So from the point of view of stylistics, this test proved Greenbaum and Quirk's claim right.

As it was mentioned in the theoretical part of this thesis (chapter 3.2), it is not possible to create non-extraposed sentences from all extraposed versions while dealing with subject extraposition. This process is highly dependant on the type of the verb introduced after anticipatory *it* in the first part of the sentence. 15 out of 19 occurrences of anticipatory *it* in the corpus allowed such operation. Those included verbs *be* (13), *remain* (1), and *come* (1). In following samples non-extraposition is not possible:

124. "At the end of the day **it** seems that countries like Russia, Ukraine and China couldn't really make it work - [...] A20

125. **It** may be that Mancini, who declined to comment, was simply hedging his bets in case he lost his job at the Etihad Stadium and regarded Monaco as the next best alternative. A21

In such cases Quirk et al state that the extraposition is obligatory as the resulting construction would not make much sense e.g. *That countries like Russia, Ukraine and China couldn't really make it work seems at the end of the day*. Other verbs obstructing non-extraposition are *appear*, *happen*, *chance*, etc. Even though the sample number 125 contains the case of the verb *be*, which mostly allows reversion of extraposition, in this example it is used to express possibility and such construction is similar to one presented in 124.

Considering the structure of extraposed clauses, the analysis did not discover any significant tendency in terms of preference of finiteness or non-finiteness. Twelve samples represented finite clause and nine samples presented non-finite clause. In terms of non-finiteness, on the other hand, it presents something that can be considered conclusive evidence. Greenbaum and Quirk admit that *to*-clauses are extraposed quite often and this process is very natural, however *ing*-clauses are extraposed quite rarely and they occur

commonly in informal speech where they often seem to be untidy afterthoughts. (1990, p. 417). There are nine cases of non-finite extraposition in the corpus. Seven of them are *to*-clauses and only two of them are *ing*-clauses one of which appears in direct speech. So if this one particular sample is not taken into account for a while (leaving the ratio *to*-clause : *ing*-clause - 7:1), it is legitimate to say that extraposed *ing*-clauses is not a typical feature of written language, as it was suggested by Greenbaum and Quirk.

The theoretical part also mentioned that the first part of the sentence, that goes before the extraposed element is specific for one reason. By incorporating mainly adjectives, but also other different structures, it gives a writer space to evaluate, or express their opinion about the utterance located in the second part of the sentence:

111. "**It's** absolutely clear to me that if there is a new treaty at 27 – if there is a new EU treaty that creates a kind of fiscal union within the eurozone – then we would have absolutely no choice either to veto it or to put it to a referendum," he said. **A1**

119. With a hip new venue, a young enthusiastic host and a 20th birthday to celebrate, **it** was fitting that the winner of the Barclaycard Mercury prize went to a debut album feted for its innovative sound. **A12**

118. Helen Cowley, editor of Lovefilm, said: "**It** comes as no surprise that the Christmas TV viewing schedule is stuffed to the brim with repeats, but research suggests that viewers now have less choice than ever before, despite having more channels to choose from." **A9**

In samples 111 and 118, the initial parts *It is absolutely clear to me* and *It comes as no surprise* indicate that speakers express their own opinion based on some previous or present knowledge. By using intensifiers such as *absolutely* or phrases such as *to come as no surprise* they make their utterances even stronger. Such opportunity to make any statement as clear as possible is welcomed in the environment of journalism as its aim is to be precise and accurate. Analysis also showed that the most frequent verb form (occurring in the first part of the sentence) which appeared in the corpus of sentences involving extraposition was linking verb (most often *be*). The reason for this is analogical to the high occurrence of adjectives with which is the use of linking verbs to some degree connected.

The overall appearance of anticipatory *it* in the position of an object was quite insignificant compared to the subject counterpart. Only two cases of such use were recorded in the corpus. Nevertheless, this fact is in agreement with the information from the chapter 3.3 where Dušková claims that those structures are to be found less frequently. Samples extracted from chosen journalistic articles follow:

130. "The approved law will make **it** difficult for Brazil to keep their emission targets," Ms Silva told reporters. **A6**

131. Airlines claim such charges allow them to keep headline fares low, but passengers often complain that they reduce transparency and make **it** more difficult to compare fares [...]. **A16**

It was previously mentioned that when it comes to *ing*-clause, extraposition is possible, however non-extraposed variant is more natural. But both these cases deals with *to*-clause extraposition and, given this situation, extraposition is inevitable. Rewritten sample sentence 131 *Airlines claim such charges allow them to keep headline fares low, but passengers often complain that they reduce transparency and make to compare fares more difficult [...]* is not syntactically correct.

In conclusion, this chapter revealed the results of the analysis of anticipatory *it* used in extraposition and also offered a possible clarification of findings. The overall occurrence, different types of extraposition and related features were analyzed and interpreted. Nine examples from the corpus were used to demonstrate this phenomenon.

### 7.3 Empty *it*

This subchapter investigates the function of the pronoun *it* which is called empty *it*. It was the third most frequent case to be found in the corpus. It was discovered 15 times, thus making 10% of all samples comprised in the whole corpus. Further, those samples were examined with respect to their syntactical features. Thirteen of them assumed the function of a subject (87%) and two of them were found in the position of an object (13%).

According to Quirk et al, this is the most neutral and semantically unmarked of the personal pronouns and it is mostly used as an empty subject, especially in expressions denoting time, distance, or atmospheric conditions. (1985, p. 348) The verity of this statement is demonstrated on several examples found in the corpus:

135. **It** is winter, so I must be nine. **A15**

142. – 144. Plant straight away outside, unless **it** is even marginally frosty. If **it** is, keep them in a frost-free, light place, keeping their roots moist by placing compost around them until **it** is above freezing. **A25**

139. The bartender merely asked me whether **it** was a wear-your-school-uniform to work day. **A15**

Samples number 135 and 139 represents *it* denoting time, whereas the sample 142-144 contains this pronoun that describes atmospheric conditions. *It* in these sentences has no semantic properties and the reason why it is used there is that the sentences have to be grammatically correct. Since there is no participant required, the subject function was assumed by the prop word *it*.

Even though empty *it* has usually some generalized reference to the environment in given context, it is possible to make such environment more specified by a locative or temporal phrase:



134. "It's all a bit surreal, behind the scenes at the British Sausage Week awards." **A13**

Here the conditions of this environment are described as *a bit surreal*, which has a very vague implication. If the sentence ended with this expression, it would be very confusing for a reader to recognize *what is surreal* even if they were familiar with the topic of the article. This is caused by the fact that the sample includes direct speech. In spoken language, a large number of utterances are dependant on extralinguistic context, which is this case. So the phrase *behind the scenes at the British Sausage Week awards* specifies what is meant by *It's all a bit surreal* and the reader is not forced to guess or make their own conclusions.

At the beginning of this subchapter, it was mentioned that empty *it* was found only twice in the position of an object in the whole corpus. Nevertheless this situation was anticipated according to Quirk et al's statement that the case of a completely empty or non-referring *it* is to be found best and mostly in idioms in which *it* follows a verb and has vague implications of life in general. (1985, p. 349) Even though *it* is typical for its occurrence in such idioms (for other see chapter 5), these idioms do not occur very frequently when journalistic style is taken into consideration. Both and only examples of this usage found in the corpus follow:

145. Childhood obesity has been blamed, but it is uncertain whether weight gain is a trigger for puberty, or a consequence of it (I was tall, but in proportion; the girl who beat me to **it** at primary school was slight). **A15**

146. "At the end of the day it seems that countries like Russia, Ukraine and China couldn't really make **it** work - and we're hoping that at the next meeting they'll come with a stronger commitment to the conservation objectives of the commission." **A20**

The phrase *beat someone to it* from the sample 145 means *to do something before someone else*. The phrase *make it work* means *to make something work properly* or as in the sample number 146 *to do anything to make a project succeed*.

One problematic case, concerning empty *it*, was encountered while examining the corpus. It was sentence:

141. Moss had no way of knowing – especially at such a young age – that the pictures she was making would turn out to be revolutionary, but **it** would be a shame if she was unable to feel some good about the impact they caused. **A23**

Here, *it* seemed to have appearance of an extrapositional subject, because its non-extraposited version [...] *but if she was unable to feel some good about the impact they caused would be a shame* might seem possible to be created, yet being stylistically inappropriate. But Quirk et al claim that such *if*- and *when*-clauses appear to be adverbials rather than extraposited subjects, therefore this *it* is considered empty.

To conclude this subchapter devoted to the analysis of empty *it*, it provided a description of findings, specifically the overall occurrence, semantic features, syntactic function and clarified some phenomena that might cause difficulties in its determination. All this was demonstrated on 9 samples from the corpus.

## 7.4 Introductory *it*

Subchapter 7.4 focuses on the last type of the usage of *it* with which is dealt in this thesis. From all four functions this pronoun can assume, introductory was the least appearing. It was detected only three times in the whole corpus, which made 2% of all samples.

Introductory *it* is used in structures called cleft sentences. What such sentences look like can be demonstrated on the following sample:

149. The fact that Moss has posed for umpteen nudes since, with many different photographers, suggests that **it** was the coercion rather than the nudity that upset her. **A23**

Their basic feature is division of a clause into two parts, each of them containing a verb. In the first part there is the pronoun *it* followed by the form of verb *be* and finally there is the element which was chosen to be highlighted. The second part is represented by relative-like dependant clause (more on that in chapter 4.1). Considering sample 149, *it was the coercion rather than the nudity that upset her*, what is put in the focus is the subject. If not clefted, the sentence would look like *the coercion rather than the nudity upset her*. But stylistically, this sentence does not work.

In the theoretical part, it was mentioned that it is possible to highlight practically every sentence element, except for verbs. This statement can be supported by the corpus findings only partly due to the low occurrence of this phenomenon in journalistic articles.

147. This was not the only time I was hit on by adults as a child, but **it** was the occasion that caused me most embarrassment. **A15**

148. **It** was after that victory that Monaco was informed Mancini was no longer interested in their vacancy. **A21**

The three samples 147, 148, and 149 showed together only two sentence elements put in the focus – two cases of a subject (147, 149) and one case of an adverbial of time (148). To demonstrate the universality of highlighting by the process of clefting, sample number 148 is further examined. It was slightly altered, though, because the second part of the sentence contained two clauses. *It was in their vacancy that Mancini was no longer interested after that victory* (object focus) *It was Mancini that was no longer interested in their vacancy after that victory* (subject focus).

Other features of introductory *it* could not be examined e.g. verb forms in the first clause of the sentence, relative pronouns introducing the relative-like clause, etc. This was caused by low occurrence of cleft sentences in the corpus. Therefore, possible conclusions could be inaccurate and misleading. Greenbaum and Quirk admit that this construction is very convenient in writing as a sort of unerring guidance to the reader but, at the same time, they claim that it is very common in spoken English. (1990, p. 412) So even though clefting is at some rate used in writing in general, journalistic style, according to the analysis findings, did not show such tendency.

## 7.5 Analysis results summary

The purpose of this subchapter is to provide the summary of the whole research. Concerning the hypothesis, it proved to be verified. The most frequently occurring function the pronoun *it* assumed was referential. Nevertheless, other three functions were expected to occur in higher rate than was discovered.

The individual functions examined in this particular paper were referential, anticipatory, introductory, and empty. From all 149 samples comprised in the corpus, 110 were cases of referential *it*, thus making 74% of the whole. Further, those samples were examined with respect to what kind of structure they refer to so the features of referential *it* could be described more clearly and precisely. Those were a noun, a noun phrase, a clause and a sentence. The last possible unit mentioned in the theoretical part, sequence of sentences, was not encountered at all. These four kinds of references were detected in following percentages – reference to a noun – 22 times (20%), reference to a noun phrase – 76 times (69%), reference to a clause – 8 times (7%), reference to a sentence – 4 times (4%).

Second most common case discovered in the corpus was anticipatory *it*. It appeared 21 times and that made 14% of all samples. Further, these particular samples were divided into two groups according to their syntactic function. There were 2 cases (10%) when anticipatory *it* assumed the function of an object and 19 cases (90%) when it was found in the subject position. Regarding their structural properties, only non-finite *to*-clause made the two occurrences in the position of an object. The latter type was represented by 12 instances of finite clause (63%), 5 instances of non-finite *to*-clause (26%), and 2 instances of non-finite *ing*-clause (11%).

Empty pronoun *it* was the third most frequent case to be found in the corpus. It was discovered 15 times, thus making 10% of all samples comprised in the whole corpus. Further, those samples were examined with respect to their syntactical features, because, due to the nature of this phenomenon, semantic and structural aspects could not be investigated.

Thirteen cases assumed the function of a subject (87%) and two of them were found in the position of an object (13%).

Regarding the occurrence of introductory *it*, it was the lowest of all four functions. It was detected only 3 times in the whole corpus, which made 2% of all samples. This fact did not allow proper examination of this type.

All findings were contrasted with information a characterization provided in the theoretical part of the thesis and also treated with respect to the given functional style. Even though the categorization of individual types of the pronoun *it* was predominantly clear, several problematic cases emerged. But in that situation a procedure for resolution was presented.

This subchapter concludes the analytical part of the thesis.

## 8. Conclusion

The eighth chapter aims to conclude this paper. Here, it is necessary to summarize both the theoretical and the practical part. The purpose of the thesis was to state the occurrence of individual functions of the pronoun *it* in journalistic style. Based on the theoretical background, a hypothesis was formulated predicting the highest occurrence of referential *it*. Additionally, the thesis was to prove whether the theoretical features of different types of the pronoun correspond to those which were found in journalistic style.

The theoretical part provided four chapters, each of them devoted to the individual function of *it* – referential, anticipatory, introductory, and empty. When it was possible, the semantic, syntactic and structural properties were described. The syntactic features presented dealt mainly with two types of clausal elements, specifically whether the pronoun occupied the position of a subject or an object. Structural aspects were taken into account mainly while dealing with referential *it* – in terms of what kind of the text unit the pronoun substituted – and also with anticipatory *it* where the attention was paid to if the extraposed clause was either finite or non-finite. Several approaches to the terminology were also introduced, most of them being fairly identical, but for the clarity of this paper mainly Quirk et al's and Greenbaum and Quirk's were adopted.

In order to carry out the analysis, 149 samples were obtained from journalistic articles. In many cases the sample sentences are accompanied with a piece of surrounding text as it was crucial for precise determination. This procedure was very convenient, because the corpus did not have to contain whole articles. All these samples and also findings from the theory were applied to the analytical part of the thesis. At the beginning of this part, a brief description of the features of journalistic style was mentioned, which was then followed by

depiction of applied methodology, sources for the corpus and hypothesis. The analysis dealt with individual phenomena with regard to their contribution to the corpus. At the end of this part, the results of this analysis were summarized.

The sum up these results: the most frequent function assumed by the pronoun *it* was referential. It appeared in 110 out of 149 samples. This count made 74% of the whole corpus. As these samples were further examined, it showed that *it* – in 22 cases referred to a noun, in 76 cases to a noun phrase, in 8 cases to a clause, and in 4 cases to sentence. A reference to a sequence of sentences was not encountered at all. Such high occurrence was expected and also suggested in the theoretical part. This is caused by the fact that the substituent *it* can refer basically to everything non-human and, regarding stylistics, it is not appropriate to repeat the same structures again and again in the text, so this is where referential *it* comes into operation. As the analysis showed, this process is widely applied in the style of newspapers. From the point of view of recoverability, 108 samples represented anaphoric reference and only 2 of them were of cataphoric reference, thus making the latter untypical characteristic of journalistic style.

Anticipatory *it* was discovered 21 times, making 14% of all samples. In comparison with the referential function, this figure represents only a small part of the corpus. Nevertheless it is not less significant. In the field of journalism, it is not necessary only to express oneself, but more importantly, express oneself properly. As the analysis found out, sentences with extraposition are very suitable for such an operation. The structure of postponed clauses was quite even regarding finiteness and non-finiteness. 12 of them were finite, 9 of them were non-finite. But Greenbaum and Quirk's statement about non-finite clauses was confirmed with highly prevailing *to*-clauses over *ing*-clauses that occur mainly in spoken language as untidy afterthoughts.

While investigating empty *it* 15 cases appeared in the corpus, taking portion of 10%. The use of this type of *it* is closely connected to expressions denoting time, distance, or atmospheric conditions. Bearing such definition in mind, it would be expected that its occurrence in journalistic articles would be much higher as journalists tend to express all circumstances, time and place so that a reader can imagine the whole situation. It is suggested then, that there are other devices to accomplish this goal but these are out of the range of this thesis and therefore they were not examined.

Regarding introductory *it*, it cannot be described as a typical feature of the style of newspapers, because it made only 3 appearances in all samples. Further, this fact did not allow proper examination of this type.

The category that could be applied to all four categories was syntactic function. Individual types of *it* assumed the position of subject as follows: referential 80/110,

anticipatory 19/21, empty 13/15, and introductory 3/3 – total 115/149. So from syntactic point of view, the pronoun *it* is typically found in place of subject.

As stated above, the research was supported by the linguistic literature studied in the theoretical part and the majority of the statements declared by linguistic experts were confirmed in the practical part. The hypothesis predicting the highest occurrence of anticipatory *it* proved to be valid.

## 9. Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá funkcemi anglického zájmena *it* v anglickém žurnalistickém stylu. Hlavním cílem této práce je zhodnotit výskyt jednotlivých funkcí v daném stylu a konstatovat, jaké typy se v žurnalistických textech (internetových lánkách) vyskytují nejast ji. Tyto typy jsou pak následn klasifikovány a analyzovány taktěž z pohledu funkce, jakou ve v t plní a formy jejich realizace. Dalším cílem této práce je prokázání hypotézy, která byla vytvo ena na základ informací získaných v teoretické ásti. Tato hypotéza zní, že nejast ji se vyskytující funkcí anglického zájmena *it*, s ohledem na žurnalistický styl, je funkce referen ní (*referential it*). Dalšími typy tohoto zájmena, které jsou zde zkoumány, jsou anticipa ní *it* (*anticipatory it*), p ípravné *it* (*introductory it*) a v poslední ad , ale nemén d ležitá, prázdne *it* (*empty it*). Vedlejším cílem této práce je zjistit, zdali teoretické aspekty t chto ty druh funkcí jsou potvrzeny p i jejich analýze v daném stylu. Teorie je tedy aplikována do analytické ásti práce, aby bylo možné zanalyzovat jednotlivé typy zájmena *it*, jejich formy, funkce a další aspekty vyjád ené v teoretické ásti s ohledem na daný funk ní styl.

Celá práce je rozd lena do dvou v tších celk na ást teoretickou a ást praktickou. Teoretická ást se dále d lí na ty i podkapitoly a to v po adí: referen ní *it*, anticipa ní *it*, p ípravné *it* a prázdne *it*. Kapitola íslo dv se tedy zabývá referen ní funkcí zájmena *it*. Jsou zde osv tleny jeho základní vlastnosti a zna ná ást se v nuje možnostem, jakým je tato reference uskute n na. Prvním zp sobem, který je pro tuto práci relevantní, je textová reference sm rem dop edu (*caraphoric reference*), druhým zp sobem je textová reference sm rem zp t (*anaphoric reference*). Dále se zde rozebírá vzájemný vztah zájmena s textovou jednotkou, kterou zastupuje. Kapitola t etí se soust edí na popis anticipa ního *it*. V anglickém jazyce platí pravidlo, že dlouhé a t žkopádné v tné struktury by m ly být umíst ny na konci v ty. Jednou z možností, jak tohoto dosáhnout je využití anticipa ního zájmena *it*. Kapitola popisuje tyto struktury, které mohou být p esunuty sm rem ke konci v ty a ty se d lí na ur ité (*finite*) a neur ité (*non-finite*). Blíže se v nuje dv ma syntaktickým pozicím, na kterých toto zájmeno vystupuje, a sice podm tu (*a subject*) a p edm tu (*an object*) a dále také možným

problém m, které mohou nastat p i ur ování této funkce zájmena. tvrtá kapitola osv tluje užití tzv. p ípravného *it*. Tato funkce se užívá tehdy, když je pot eba zvýraznit ur itý v tný len nebo struktura ve v t . Toto lze aplikovat na všechny v tné leny krom p ísudku. Principem je rozd lení v ty (*sentence, clause*) na dva menší celky (*clauses*) a umíst ní cht né struktury do první ásti nov vzniklého útvaru. D ležitou poznámkou je pak p edstavený postup pro rozlišení této funkce zájmena od té p edchozí. Poslední kapitola, pátá, která uzavírá teoretickou ást, se v nuje popisu funkce prázdného *it*, které anglický jazyk hojn využívá p edevším p i vyjad ování ásu, místa, atmosférických podmínek a také v n kterých idiomatických spojeních.

Aby byly všechny gramatické jevy lépe pochopeny, jsou u nich také uvád ny p íklady z relevantní literatury. Poznatky tvo ící teoretickou ást byly erpány z r zných zdroj . Tyto zdroje byly vzájemn porovnány a zohledn ny a po jejich pe livém prostudování byl pro celistvost práce vybrán teoretický p ístup podle Quirka a kolektivu a Quirka a Greenbauma. Teoretická ást je strukturována takovým zp sobem, aby v ní uvedené a vysv tlené jevy byly p ímo reflektovány v ásti praktické, kde jsou jejich vlastnosti ov ovány na konkrétních p íkladech v t vyskytujících se v žurnalistickém stylu. Z toho je patrné, že teoretická ást spole n se zkoumaným vzorkem tvo í podklad pro zpracování analýzy.

Druhou ást této bakalá ské práce tvo í ást analytická, která je dále rozd lena do dvou v tších kapitol. Kapitola šestá tvo í samotný úvod do praktické ásti. Nejprve je zde stru n popsána charakteristika anglického žurnalistického stylu, po které následuje popis zvolené metodologie, p vodu zdroj pro vytvo ení korpusu a v poslední ad také hypotézy. Kapitola sedmá, která se dále d lí na p t menších podkapitol, se zabývá již samotnou analýzou získaných vzork . Jednotlivé druhy funkcí jsou zkoumány v po adí podle etnosti výskytu v korpusu. Nejprve je tedy zkoumáno referen ní zájmeno *it*, poté anticipa ní, prázdné a nakonec i p ípravné. Jak už bylo e eno, krom etnosti jsou zde jednotlivé p ípady zkoumány z hlediska formy, funkce, a dalších rys , které jsou p ízna né pro dané funkce zájmena *it* s ohledem na daný styl. Všechny tyto aspekty jsou demonstrovány na konkrétních p íkladech p evzatých z žurnalistického stylu a následn jsou i popsány. Sporné p ípady, které mohou ob as vést k nejasnosti nebo mnohozna nosti jsou zde také rozebrány. Záv re ná kapitola uzavírající analytickou ást této bakalá ské práce poskytuje shrnutí analýzy a p edstavuje hlavních zjišt ní a výsledky.

Korpus této práce byl vytvo en ze 149 vzork v t a v tších v tných celk . Tyto byly uspo ádány podle etnosti výskytu. Vzorky byly získány ze t í britských internetových deník , a to *bbc.co.uk*, *guardian.co.uk* a *telegraph.co.uk*. D vodem, pro byly lánky vyhledány na internetu byla p edevším jejich dostupnost. Celkov bylo použito 25 lánk , které se takto staly zdrojem primárních dat pro tuto práci. lánky jsou pat i n citovány

v bibliografické části a pro přehlednost označeny čísly A1- A25. U každého vzorku v korpusu je pro přehlednost toto číslo připojeno. Jak bylo již dříve řečeno, někdy daný vzorek neobsahuje pouze vtu, v které se nachází patřičný jev, ale obsahuje také část kontextu, který je pro jeho určení nezbytný. Dále jsou ve vzorcích rozlišeny důležité jevy různým stylem písma. Všechna zájmena *it* jsou označena tučným písmem. V případě referenčního *it* je podtržena ta část textu, na kterou toto zájmeno odkazuje. U anticipačního *it* je podtržena vnitřní struktura, která byla přeusnulata směrem ke konci vty a podtržená část textu u přípravného *it* poukazuje na tu část vty, která byla vybrána pro zvýraznění. Příklady referenčního *it* jsou dále rozděleny podle rozsahu vnitřní struktury, ke které se toto zájmeno vztahuje a to od nejjednodušší po nejsložitější – podstatné jméno (*a noun*), modifikované podstatné jméno (*a noun phrase*), vta v souvětí (*a clause*) a vta (*a sentence*). Příklady anticipačního a prázdného *it* se dále dělí podle jejich syntaktické funkce, kterou ve vte zastávají, a to podmět (*a subject*) a předmět (*an object*). Co se týče zvolené metodologie, tato bakalářská práce se zaměřuje především na kvantitativní analýzu, jejímž předmětem bylo zkoumání četnosti výskytu jednotlivých typů zájmena *it* v žurnalistickém stylu. Úkolem kvalitativní analýzy bylo porovnat aspekty z teorie s aspekty, které byly nalezeny při analýze žurnalistického stylu. Analýza se dále zabývá dalšími teoretickými aspekty se zřetelím na hypotézu a daný funkční styl.

Samotný výskyt zájmena *it* v žurnalistickém stylu se dá hodnotit jako poměrně velký. V 25 vybraných novinových úsecích bylo toto zájmeno zaznamenáno přibližně jako každé sté slovo. Nejčastější funkcí, které *it* plnilo byla funkce referenční. Ze 149 příkladů to bylo plných 110, což tvoří 74% celého korpusu. Nejčastěji, 76krát, odkazovalo na modifikované podstatné jméno (*a noun phrase*), další v pořadí bylo podstatné jméno (*a noun*) – 22krát, poté vta v souvětí (*a clause*) – 8krát, a konečně vta (*a sentence*) – 4krát. Dalším zkoumaným jevem byl druh reference ve smyslu, jestli zájmeno odkazovalo dopředu (*cataphoric reference*) nebo zpět (*anaphoric reference*). Ve 108 případech to byla reference anaforická, což potvrdilo i tvrzení z teoretické části. Mnohem důležitější však bylo potvrzení hypotézy, která správně předurčila, že zájmeno *it* bude v žurnalistickém textu plnit nejčastěji funkci referenční.

Další jevy se vyskytovaly již v menší míře. Anticipační zájmeno *it* bylo v korpusu nalezeno celkem jednadvacetkrát. Pouze dvakrát zastávalo funkci předmětu. Oba tyto vzorky obsahovaly neurčitou vnitřní strukturu (*non-finite to-clause*). Z toho vyplývá, že v 19 případech bylo toto zájmeno objeveno v pozici předmětu – 12krát *finite that-clause*, 5krát *non-finite to-clause* a 2krát *non-finite ing-clause*. Zde je důležité poznamenat, že bylo opět potvrzena informace z teoretické části, a to, že *non-finite ing-clause* se v tomto kontextu používá velmi zřídka a většinou pouze v mluvené řeči.



Prázdné *it* se bylo zaznamenáno 15krát. Z toho 13krát plnilo funkci podm tu a 2krát funkci p edm tu. V ty s tímto zájmenem v tšinou odkazovaly na as, místo, nebo atmosférické podmínky. Pokud bylo použito v p edm tové m vztahu, tak bylo sou ástí anglických idiomatických spojení, které mají pouze obecný význam. P ípravné *it* bylo zkoumáno jen povrchov , protože korpus obsahoval pouze t i p ípady tohoto užití. Tudíž by p ípadné záv ry nem ly velkou výpov dní hodnotu a mohly by být i mylné.

Co se tý e syntaktické funkce, ve 115 vzorcích se zájmeno zhostilo role podm tu a ve zbylých 34 role p edm tu. Lze proto tvrdit, že pro anglický žurnalistický styl je typické, že obsahuje zájmeno *it* v podm tové m tvaru.

Žurnalistické lánky, jsou v tšinou toho druhu, že se v titulku zam í na vybrané téma a toto téma je dále rozvíjeno v t le lánku, p í emž se k danému tématu v jeho pr b hu vrací. Ze stylistického hlediska je nevhodné popisovat daný jev stále stejným pojmenováním, ale je na míst tyto pojmenování obm ovat. Zájmena jsou pro to vhodným prost edkem. V tomto sm ru vyniká nejvíce zájmeno *it*, díky svému univerzálnímu použití v anglickém jazyce, protože m že odkazovat na vše „nelidské“ (*non-human*). Další výhodou v sob skrývá anticipa ní *it*, jehož samotná konstrukce je jako stvo ená pro jasné vyjad ovaní osobních názor i hodnocení situací, což je v žurnalistickém stylu žádané.

Jelikož, je v psaných lánkách d ležitě tená m vysv tlit všechny okolnosti daných situací, jako nap íklad popis as , míst, prost edí, ale t eba i po así, tak v tomto smyslu se hojn využívá prázdného *it*. P ípravné *it* m že vypadat jako vhodná metoda pro zd razn ní pot ebné informace, nicmén v korpusu zaujímalo pouze mizivé procento a bylo dáno za pravdu tvrzení, že tato konstrukce je b žná spíše v mluvené než v psané form .

Analýza žurnalistického textu tedy potvrdila v tšinu tvrzení založených na poznacích z teoretické ásti, avšak nejd ležit jším zjišt ním bylo prokázání pravdivosti hypotézy, že referen ní funkce zájmena *it* bude tou nej ast ji používanou v novinových lánkách.

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## 11. Appendices

### Appendix : The data corpus

#### Rerential *it*

##### Noun reference

1. Lead author Prof Max Parkin said: "Many people believe cancer is down to fate or 'in the genes' and that it is the luck of the draw whether they get **it**. **A3**  
noun reference
2. Brazil's new Forest Code means **it** will struggle to meet its targets on curbing greenhouse emissions, according to a former environment minister. **A6**  
noun reference
3. Now a British company called iGeolise is promising to commercialise that idea for all modes of transport [...]. Since this summer **it** has already helped TalkTalk decide [...] **A14**  
noun reference
- 4., 5. Since this summer it has already helped TalkTalk decide where **it** ought to relocate its offices to – when **it** was considering moving a thousand employees – [...] **A14**  
2x noun reference

6. A new study finds that youngsters are reaching puberty increasingly young – so why, asks Hannah Betts, is **it** still such a taboo subject? **A15**  
noun reference

7. Childhood obesity has been blamed, but it is uncertain whether weight gain is a trigger for puberty, or a consequence of **it** [...] **A15**  
noun reference

8. – 12. “And **it**’s such a mess,” as I heard over and over again, about which I can only concur. Menstruation should not have to curtail childhood adventures, but somehow **it** does. [...] And **it** hurt – **it** even hurts now as I write this after 30 years at **it** – the first hurt that Mummy and Daddy may not be able to remedy. **A15**  
5x noun reference

13. It is a taboo that deprives the young of support at a time when they acutely need **it**. **A15**  
noun reference

14., 15. If puberty is reaching our children ever younger – and **it** is – then the most adult thing we can do is acknowledge **it**. **A15**  
2x noun reference

16. [...], none has shown superior effects on disability when compared to interferon except alemtuzumab." He told the BBC: "**It** is certainly the most effective MS drug, based on these clinical trials, but this is definitely not a cure." **A18**  
noun reference

17. – 20. "Alemtuzumab has been found to be an effective treatment for people with MS - but **it**’s only useful to them if **it**’s available on the NHS. "We urge Genzyme to price the treatment responsibly so that if **it**’s licensed, **it**’s deemed cost-effective on the NHS." **A18**  
4x noun reference

21. Many still have hope that agreement can be found. "There’s a number of factors involved and **it** is quite complex," said Steve Campbell [...].**A20**  
noun reference

22. A majority of middle-class families want to leave Britain because **it** no longer offers them an adequate quality of life, a new survey has concluded. **A24**  
noun reference

### **Noun phrase reference**

23., 24. "It’s absolutely clear to me that if there is a new treaty at 27 – if there is a new EU treaty that creates a kind of fiscal union within the eurozone – then we would have absolutely no choice either to veto **it** or to put **it** to a referendum," he said. **A1**  
2x noun phrase reference

25., 26. The British national interest absolutely means that we need to help resolve this crisis in the eurozone. **It** is freezing the British economy just as **it** is freezing economies right across Europe. **A1**  
2x noun phrase reference

27. Again we have some leverage in that situation because they need the use of EU institutions but we should recognise what that leverage is and make the most of **it**." **A1**  
noun phrase reference
28. The RFU is in the short term looking for an interim head coach to steer England through the Six Nations. **It** will make the appointment within the next two weeks and has not ruled out a high-profile figure taking the role. **A2**  
noun phrase reference
29. Tobacco is the biggest culprit, causing 23% of cases in men and 15.6% in women, says the Cancer Research UK report. Next comes a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables in men's diets, while for women **it** is being overweight. **A3**  
noun phrase reference
30. The report is published in the British Journal of Cancer. Its authors claim **it** is the most comprehensive analysis to date on the subject. **A3**  
noun phrase reference
31. The government said **it** was intending to begin a consultation on plain packaging by the end of this year. **A3**  
noun phrase reference
32. In New Zealand, the central bank said **it** was taking steps to limit the impact of global economic problems. **A4**  
noun phrase reference
33. Inflation in South Korea accelerated above the central bank's target of 4% in November and analysts said **it** could stay high for some time. **A4**  
noun phrase reference
34. The Senate passed the new Forest Code late on Tuesday. **It** will reduce the size of buffer zones around rivers, and weaken the amount of land that owners must leave forested. **A6**  
noun phrase reference
35. But, said Mr Assad, the impact of the new code was not yet clear. "The team at the Ministry of Environment is currently examining the effects of this piece of legislation, and in the near future will be able to have a clearer view of what **it** will imply," he said. **A6**  
noun phrase reference
36. – 40. Analysis has been made more difficult by the fact that the precise terms of the draft code have changed many times since **it** initially entered the lower house of parliament earlier in the year. **It** must go back to the lower house and be signed off by the president before becoming law. The Ruralist bloc of parliamentarians, which first proposed the changes in the 46-year old code, believes **it** will increase Brazil's food production and simplify rules for farmers. But environment groups believe **it** will damage forests, rivers and wildlife. [...] But how far **it** is prepared to go towards meeting the ambition set out by the EU, [...]. **A6**  
5x noun phrase reference
41. Environment groups are appealing to the EU to stand firm in its demands for a firm timeline towards a strong global deal, in return for which **it** is prepared to sign up for a second round of emission cuts under the Kyoto Protocol. **A6**  
noun phrase reference



42. The US credit rating agency, which has been accused of jeopardising the vital Brussels summit which starts today, said **it** had put the debt issued by the EU itself on "credit negative watch" as a result of its action earlier this week. **A7**  
noun phrase reference

43. The notice, which also warned on a raft of banks, threatens the rating and firepower of Europe's "big bazooka" bail-out fund, the European Financial Stability Facility. **It** will further undermine confidence in Europe ahead of the Brussels summit, dubbed the "last chance for the euro". **A7**  
noun phrase reference

44. Initially markets rose on the back of Mr Van Rompuy's proposal to combine the firepower of the EFSF and European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to create a €900bn bail-out fund. However when asked if Germany would consider **it**, an official said: "No." **A7**  
noun phrase reference

45. The data will make grim reading for the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, as **it** prepares to announce its monthly policy decision at noon on Thursday. **A8**  
noun phrase reference

46. Michael Saunders, Citigroup economist, said the manufacturing figures made clear the case for more stimulus, but despite a deteriorating outlook, the MPC is not expected to change policy, having already signalled **it** will wait until February to make a decision on whether to engage in more quantitative easing. **A8**  
noun phrase reference

47. However, the British Chambers of Commerce said action to stimulate growth and confidence was needed now. **It** called for a £50bn increase in QE. **A8**  
noun phrase reference

48. The weak economy was underlined by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which estimated that the economy grew by just 0.3pc in the three months ending in November, compared with 0.4pc growth in the three months ending October. "These data lend support to the further loosening of UK monetary policy," **it** said. **A8**  
noun phrase reference

49. The BBC defended the schedule and said **it** was showing no repeats during prime time on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Boxing Day. **A9**  
noun phrase reference

50., 51. The EU announced around \$200m (£125m) in development aid earlier this year, almost as much as **it** has given over the past 15 years. **It** is also offering Burma the same trade privileges that other low-income countries get. **A10**  
2x noun phrase reference

52. Indie act Alt-J won the £20,000 winners' cheque – and the increased profile and record sales that are promised alongside **it** – for their album An Awesome Wave at the award ceremony at the Roundhouse in Camden, north London. **A12**  
noun phrase reference

53. – 56. Asked what the band liked about the album, keyboardist Gus Unger-Hamilton said the fact he enjoyed listening to **it** was testament to the fact **it** was "quite good". He said: "I love **it** because we made **it**, [...]" **A12**  
4x noun phrase reference

57. But despite promises to spend the £20,000 winning cheque on a slap-up meal for their parents – who would have to be shipped in from France, Harrogate, Cornwall and Southampton – it appeared that some of **it** would be spent on more immediate celebrations. **A12**

noun phrase reference

58. "With that backdrop Alt-J is a good choice. **It's** an innovative, arty, but engaging and warm record, which will surprise many and make sure the prize is talked about." **A12**

noun phrase reference

59. Higher meat-content isn't everything either: beyond about 83%, a sausage turns into "a solid hunk of meat, and **it** does tend to be drier". **A13**

noun phrase reference

60. Fisher reckons the standard of the Great British banger is higher now than **it's** ever been: [...]. **A13**

noun phrase reference

61. In fairness to the judges, they've been there for two days on the trot, rating sausages on filling, texture, taste and appearance ("What is **it** saying to you?" head judge Keith Fisher asks me earnestly at one point, as we inspect a pork-and-apple number). **A13**

noun phrase reference

62. The next time you're looking for a place to buy or rent, will you choose **it** by the distance from where you work [...]. **A14**

noun phrase reference

63. Now a British company called iGeolise is promising to commercialise that idea for all modes of transport – and expand **it** from the UK to Europe and the US. **A14**

noun phrase reference

64. Now a British company called iGeolise is promising to commercialise that idea for all modes of transport [...] and a major high street store is considering offering **it** on its site to help web searchers find their nearest outlet, measured by time rather than the usual distance as the crow flies. **A14**

noun phrase reference

65. But iGeolise has the momentum at present, having just won the UK Satellite Navigation Competition [...], is poised to start offering location search services for all sorts of companies – and could come to the attention of mapping giants, including Google, Nokia and Apple, all of which have hundreds of millions of users. "I would think those three would find **it** useful," says Peter Lilley, who co-founded the company along with Charlie Davis. **A14**

noun phrase reference

66. Though the satellite navigation systems of those companies will offer time estimates for road-based travel, iGeolise can calculate how long it will take to get somewhere if you need to take a train and then a bus, because **it** is now adding public transport timetables to its calculations. **A14**

noun phrase reference

67. The company has not had any venture capital funding; instead Lilley and Davis have part-funded the business themselves [...]"We could conceivably have taken [venture capital] funding," says Lilley, "but **it** would no longer be our business." **A14**  
noun phrase reference

68. Periods at 11 seemed young then, today **it** is increasingly the norm. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

69. Last week, the American Academy of Pediatrics published an investigation into more than 4,000 boys aged between six and 16 across 41 states. **It** demonstrated that US males are showing signs of puberty six months to two years earlier than previously believed. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

70. A study in 2010, published in the US Journal of Pediatrics, provoked a media storm when **it** revealed that girls were reaching puberty ever more prematurely, with some developing breasts as young as six. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

71. As public nutrition improved, so the age of sexual maturity dropped; my school textbooks informed me **it** would strike at 14 – three years later than had been the case. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

72. Prolonged oestrogen exposure may be linked to a greater risk of breast and ovarian cancer, and of developing cardiovascular problems. **It** also holds implications for the development of Type 2 diabetes. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

73. The divide between the “haves” and the “have-nots” appears more controversial at 11 than **it** is at 14, when minds are more able to think their way round the subject. **A15**  
noun phrase reference

74. A girl who began her periods at 10 confided: “I felt that my classmates blamed me – thought that I must be doing things I shouldn’t and that had ‘brought **it** on’ **A15**  
noun phrase reference

75. Yet the point at which they accede to the superficial guise of adulthood remains a great unspoken subject. **It** is a taboo [...] **A15**  
noun phrase reference

76., 77. Inside the barrel was a small slip of paper containing a coded message. "I said 'I wonder if **it**'s a secret message' and **it** was. **A17**  
2x noun phrase reference

78. After we took the spool off there was a cigarette paper with coded writing on **it**," Mr Martin said. **A17**  
noun phrase reference

79. The researchers tested a leukaemia drug, alemtuzumab, which had shown benefits for MS in small studies. In leukaemia, a blood cancer, **it** controls the excess production of white blood cells. **A18**  
noun phrase reference

80. The drug has been withdrawn from the market in Europe and the US as the manufacturer, Genzyme, intends to have **it** licensed as a treatment for MS. **A18**  
noun phrase reference
81. – 82. The company said **it** would not come up with a price for the drug "until it is approved by regulatory authorities" and that **it** would "engage constructively" with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, [...]. **A18**  
2x noun phrase reference
83. The company said it would not come up with a price for the drug "until **it** is approved by regulatory authorities" and that it would "engage constructively" with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, [...]. **A18**  
noun phrase reference
84. Two of Greece's former finance ministers have acknowledged seeing copies of the list. However, Yannis Stournaras, who took office in June, has told parliament he has not seen **it**. **A19**  
noun phrase reference
85. "The three last governments have lied and have made a mockery of the Greek people with this list," he said. "They were obliged to pass **it** to parliament or to the justice system. **A19**  
noun phrase reference
86. For the past two weeks the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has been meeting in Tasmania. Made up of representatives from 24 governments and the European Union, **it** has been considering proposals for the establishment of marine reserves in two critical areas of the Southern Ocean. **A20**  
noun phrase reference
87. Another proposal would have created a reserve zone around East Antarctica - At around 1.9 million square kilometres, **it** would have covered an area almost three times the size of France. **A20**  
noun phrase reference
- 88., 89. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) said **it** would reduce the standard projection rates used to show possible future returns and the impact of charges for someone taking out a product such as a personal pension or a life policy. **It** said the move would reduce the possibility of consumers being given a "false impression" of the size of their potential cash pots. **A22**  
2x noun phrase reference
90. Under the current system, a pension statement shows what a pension will be worth if **it** grows by 5%, 7% and 9%. **A22**  
noun phrase reference
91. He said it is vital that investors did not just look at a projection once and then forget about **it** for the next 30 years. **A22**  
noun phrase reference
- 92., 93. McPhail said: "Every year they should look at their investment, at how **it** has performed, how much they are investing and what **it** might grow to. **A22**  
2x noun phrase reference

94. Moss may regret that early shoot, but **it** took beauty out of the realm of fantasy glamour into something more wonky and fallible **A23**

noun phrase reference

95. Moss says that she felt self-conscious about the mole on her breast, but the fact that she showed **it** did us all a favour. **A23**

noun phrase reference

96. No one should be coerced into doing something they don't want to, but without nude models, art history as we know **it** wouldn't exist. **A23**

noun phrase reference

97. [...], our fashion director Katie Grand was at pains to emphasise that a fashion shoot was a collaboration between model, photographer, stylist and all the other people who worked on **it**, and that the models [...]. **A23**

noun phrase reference

98. My mother gave me a boot load of G. Pratense 'Mrs Kendall Clark', which runs along the path to my office. **It** has beautiful, clear, pale blue flowers in June and July for a good six weeks, [...]. **A25**

noun phrase reference

### Clause reference

99. "I'm in a great position to win, but **it's** not even crossed my mind at the moment," Oosthuizen said. **A11**

finite clause reference

100. He said it was fitting that a band's debut album had won a prize that valued fresh sounds. "We hadn't heard a sound like that before," he said. "If **it** tells us something about music now [...]" **A12**

finite clause reference

101. It wasn't traumatic, hitting puberty early, but neither was **it** particularly pleasant. **A15**

non-finite clause reference

102.,103. "They were obliged to pass it to parliament or to the justice system. They didn't do **it**, and they should be in prison for **it**." **A19**

2x non-finite clause reference

104., 105. "I see a 16-year-old now, and to ask her to take her clothes off would feel really weird," she says. "But they were like: if you don't do **it**, then we're not going to book you again. So I'd lock myself in the toilet and cry and then come out and do **it**." **A23**

2x non-finite clause reference

106. When Moss appeared on the cover of the Face in 1990 with an image taken from this session (the rest ran inside), **it** marked nothing less than the transition from the 80s to the 90s. **A23**

finite clause reference

## Sentence reference

107. New Zealand kept rates unchanged at 2.5%, while South Korea held its cost of borrowing at 3.25%. It comes after Australia's central bank lowered interest rates on Tuesday.

**A4**

sentence reference

108. Rick Smith and Karl Hyde will work with artistic director Danny Boyle and will be responsible for overseeing the music in the three-hour ceremony on 27 July. [...] "It's certainly not something we'll get the chance to do again." **A5**

sentence reference

109. The World Bank has approved an \$80m (£50m) grant and pledged lending for Burma for the first time in 25 years. [...] **It** comes after the current government began implementing economic, political and other reforms. **A10**

sentence reference

110. Airlines around the world will collect an estimated £22 billion in extra fees and charges this year, according to new research. [...] With total airline income remaining stagnant during that time, **it** also illustrates just how dependent many airlines have become on "ancillary" revenue, [...]. **A16**

sentence reference

## Anticipatory *it*

### Subject extraposition

111. "**It's** absolutely clear to me that if there is a new treaty at 27 – if there is a new EU treaty that creates a kind of fiscal union within the eurozone – then we would have absolutely no choice either to veto it or to put it to a referendum," he said. **A1**

finite clause extraposition

112. "Why do you think **it** is in the national interest to tell your backbenchers one thing to quell a rebellion on Europe and tell your European partners another?" **A1**

non-finite to-clause extraposition

113. [...], but the franchise's coach Dave Rennie said: "**It** was a real coup getting Smithy in the first place and we would not stand in his way. **A2**

non-finite ing-clause extraposition

114. Lead author Prof Max Parkin said: "Many people believe cancer is down to fate or 'in the genes' and that **it** is the luck of the draw whether they get it." **A3**

finite clause extraposition

115. "Looking at all the evidence, **it's** clear that around 40% of all cancers are caused by things we mostly have the power to change." **A3**

finite clause extraposition

116. "[...], **it** remains prudent for now to keep the official cash rate on hold," said Reserve Bank of New Zealand Governor Alan Bollard in a statement. **A4**

non-finite to-clause extraposition

117. "It's a great honour to be asked to do this and one we're taking very seriously," said Hyde. **A5**  
non-finite to-clause extraposition
118. Helen Cowley, editor of Lovefilm, said: "It comes as no surprise that the Christmas TV viewing schedule is stuffed to the brim with repeats, but research suggests that viewers now have less choice than ever before, despite having more channels to choose from." **A9**  
finite clause extraposition
119. With a hip new venue, a young enthusiastic host and a 20th birthday to celebrate, **it** was fitting that the winner of the Barclaycard Mercury prize went to a debut album feted for its innovative sound. **A12**  
finite clause extraposition
120. But despite promises to spend the £20,000 winning cheque on a slap-up meal for their parents – who would have to be shipped in from France, Harrogate, Cornwall and Southampton – **it** appeared that some of it would be spent on more immediate celebrations. **A12**  
finite clause extraposition
121. **It** wasn't traumatic, hitting puberty early, but neither was it particularly pleasant. **A15**  
non-finite ing-clause extraposition
122. Childhood obesity has been blamed, but **it** is uncertain whether weight gain is a trigger for puberty, or a consequence of it [...]. **A15**  
finite clause extraposition
123. Mr Vaxevanis said he had published the list because **it** was his job as a journalist to reveal the truth. **A19**  
non-finite to-clause extraposition
124. "At the end of the day **it** seems that countries like Russia, Ukraine and China couldn't really make it work - and we're hoping that at the next meeting they'll come with a stronger commitment to the conservation objectives of the commission." **A20**  
finite clause extraposition
125. **It** may be that Mancini, who declined to comment, was simply hedging his bets in case he lost his job at the Etihad Stadium and regarded Monaco as the next best alternative. The information supplied to this newspaper, however, states that all terms of a prospective contract with Monaco had been agreed. Monaco, in short, were convinced they had got their man. **A21**  
finite clause extraposition
126. Tom McPhail, head of pensions research at Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "**It** is important to remember that these are just projections; they will have no impact on what investors actually get back from their savings. **A22**  
non-finite to-clause extraposition
127. He said **it** is vital that investors did not just look at a projection once and then forget about it for the next 30 years. **A22**  
finite clause extraposition

128. It is understood the report's findings have been discussed with senior government officials in Adelaide after the local state Premiér, Jay Weatherill, visited London in May this year on a "trade mission". **A24**  
finite clause extraposition

129. Given that they were labelled as "geraniums", I assumed they were the hardy type, but when the tiny plug plants grew on a bit, **it** was obvious that they were pelargoniums. **A25**  
finite clause extraposition

### **Object extraposition**

130. "The approved law will make **it** difficult for Brazil to keep their emission targets," Ms Silva told reporters. **A6**  
non-finite to-clause extraposition

131. Airlines claim such charges allow them to keep headline fares low, but passengers often complain that they reduce transparency and make **it** more difficult to compare fares [...]. **A16**  
non-finite to-clause extraposition

## **Empty *it***

### **Subject position**

132. "If [our domestic regulations] are weakened, **it** takes away our leadership." **A6**

133. **It** was a bad day for Sweden's Peter Hanson, who is hoping to overhaul world number one McIlroy at the top of the European Tour money list. **A11**

134. "**It's** all a bit surreal, behind the scenes at the British Sausage Week awards. **A13**

135. **It** is winter, so I must be nine. **A15**

136. One would never, of course, exonerate paedophiles; not least now as the Savile obscenity continues to outrage us all. However, I am convinced that these men did not possess paedophile tendencies. They simply mistook my age, as many others had done. I hit puberty early and at full force. Tall for my age, with the first signs of breasts at 8, I had my first period at 11 (my mother's started at 10). Her mother fainted; mine shouted: "Why is this happening to me?" – which **it** very much wasn't. **A15**

137. **It** was New Year and I was on my way to the children's part of a celebration. **A15**

138. A study in 2010, published in the US Journal of Pediatrics, provoked a media storm when it revealed that girls were reaching puberty ever more prematurely, with some developing breasts as young as six. Investigations throughout the West have confirmed the same phenomenon.

At a macro level, we knew something of this, and **it** makes perfect sense. From the end of the Middle Ages until the mid-20th century, the average age for girls to have their first period seems to have been about 17. **A15**

139. The bartender merely asked me whether **it** was a wear-your-school-uniform to work day. **A15**



140. At 14, I could be served in the pub in my school uniform, where my 18- and 19-year-old muftied friends were refused. The bartender merely asked me whether it was a wear-your-school-uniform to work day. After my brother was born when I was 12, he was invariably assumed to be mine, even by his health visitor.

Much of this was funny, much of **it** pretty awful. Research published by the universities of Bristol and Cambridge in 2011 suggested that girls who start their periods early are more likely to experience depression. **A15**

141. Moss had no way of knowing – especially at such a young age – that the pictures she was making would turn out to be revolutionary, but **it** would be a shame if she was unable to feel some good about the impact they caused. **A23**

142. – 144. Plant straight away outside, unless **it** is even marginally frosty. If **it** is, keep them in a frost-free, light place, keeping their roots moist by placing compost around them until **it** is above freezing. **A25**

### **Object position**

145. Childhood obesity has been blamed, but it is uncertain whether weight gain is a trigger for puberty, or a consequence of it (I was tall, but in proportion; the girl who beat me to **it** at primary school was slight). **A15**

146. "At the end of the day it seems that countries like Russia, Ukraine and China couldn't really make **it** work - and we're hoping that at the next meeting they'll come with a stronger commitment to the conservation objectives of the commission." **A20**

### **Introductory *it***

147. This was not the only time I was hit on by adults as a child, but **it** was the occasion that caused me most embarrassment. **A15**

S as focus

148. **It** was after that victory that Monaco was informed Mancini was no longer interested in their vacancy. **A21**

A<sub>time</sub> as focus

149. The fact that Moss has posed for umpteen nudes since, with many different photographers, suggests that **it** was the coercion rather than the nudity that upset her. **A23**

S as focus