

The Text Difficulty in some Czech Natural Science Textbooks

Abstract

The paper is focused on text difficulty evaluation of six Czech natural science textbooks for the fifth grade. The text analysis was carried out by my method. The obtained results indicate that text difficulty is similar in four studied textbooks (30 points). They are textbooks of the following publishing companies – Alter, Fortuna, Prodos, SPN. These books belong to the scale of difficulty for the fifth grade. The mentioned textbooks can be successfully used in the process of education.

Key words: *text difficulty, syntactic factor, semantic factor, natural science textbooks for the fifth grade.*

Introduction

Until the end of the nineteenth century textbooks were the basic instrument for mass-education. Today at least in the Czech Republic and abroad textbooks have been replaced by “ systems of teaching materials“ and modern textbooks are different from the traditional ones. A textbook can be characterized as a socially determined style of writing, institutionally framed and determined. The basic idea concerning a textbook is not to present new knowledge, but to reproduce the already acquired knowledge. A textbook must be organized according to certain pedagogic requirements.

A textbook has certain characteristics, which differ from the characteristics of other texts like a dissertation, a novel, a poem, an article or a telephone directory. The content of a textbook is structured like facets, and it is adapted to the pupil's