

REMARKS ON COMPLEX CONDENSATION PHENOMENA IN SOME ENGLISH AND CZECH CONTEXTS*

The problems of complex condensation in Modern English were first dealt with by J. Vachek (1). The term *complex condensation* was first used by V. Mathesius to denote an introduction into a sentence of a nominal element or phrase replacing the finite verb of a subordinate clause and so dispensing with the clausal structure altogether. The means of condensation (for short: condensers) are mainly nominal forms derived from verbs, such as infinitives, participles, gerunds, and verbal nouns. In his above-mentioned chapter, J. Vachek compares equivalent English and Czech contexts, both from literary prose works and from specialized literature, and demonstrates the preponderance of the instances of complex condensation established in the English contexts (either original English or translated from Czech) over those found in the Czech contexts. A comparison of the historical development of the two languages shows that the number of condensers in English has increased, esp. by the rise of gerunds, while in Czech it has been reduced by the loss of the present passive participle. This development seems to have gone hand in hand with the decreasing dynamism of the finite verb in English and with the increasing dynamism of its Czech opposite number. In English, it is the condensers themselves that make up for the reduced dynamism by their ability to convey, or to co-convey at least, the setting in time of the actions or processes involved. After a detailed analysis of the problems described above J. Vachek arrives at the conclusion that the different positions occupied by the phenomena of complex condensation in English and Czech are related to the general structure of these languages (analytical and synthetic, respectively) and to the reduced dynamism of the English verb (and the correlated strong nominal tendencies in English) on the one hand and to the dynamically strong Czech finite verb on the other.

Besides J. Vachek's study, a number of papers have been published discussing problems more or less related to the phenomenon of complex condensation. J. Nosek and V. Hrabě (2) are dealing with the problems of the so-called semi-sentence construction in Early New English and in Czech and Russian (3). J. Macháček (4) studies a question connected with the reduction of dynamism in the English verb — the question of copulas and full verbs in contemporary English and the transitional phenomena between these two categories. In a number of contributions J. Fírbaš (5) analyses the character of the English verb in the act of communication and the nominal tendencies ascertainable in modern English.

I

J. Vachek's paper on complex condensation was used as a theoretical basis for the work of five members of a students' research circle (cf. footnote on p. 105) estab-

*The present paper is based on the results of analyses presented in the diploma theses of A. Hladká, J. Hladký, D. Chvátalová, O. Kříž and O. Tichá.

lished in the Department of English of the Brno University, the results of the investigations being recorded in unpublished diploma theses of the members of that circle. Using the method developed by J. Vachek, the members studied the phenomenon of complex condensation on corresponding English and Czech contexts, taken both from narrative prose and from works of professional character. The contexts were either English originals with Czech translations or Czech originals with English translations. One member of the circle — O. Tichá — compared a 17th-century English text with its Modern English equivalent. The corresponding English and Czech (or ENE and NE) texts were compared sentence by sentence and all instances of complex condensation, opposed to paratactically or hypotactically arranged clauses with finite verb forms in the other language, were recorded, classified and tabulated. Unless otherwise stated, the whole of the book was analysed.

D. Chvátalová studied the instances of complex condensation occurring in K. Mansfield's *Bliss and Other Stories* and its outstanding Czech translation by A. Skoumal. As J. Čaha (7) pointed out in his discussion of Skoumal's translation, Mansfield's style may be characterized as favourizing simple sentence structure. A high number of sentences contains only up to ten words and a strong majority goes up to twenty words, sentences with more than twenty words being rather rare. J. Čaha also stressed the use of parataxis, which is more frequent here than is usual in English. But even so, when compared with the Czech translation, K. Mansfield's sentences contain a high number of instances of complex condensation, as is shown by the following table, in which the columns indicate the type of the English condenser and the lines the type of the corresponding Czech clause.

	Present participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Other Means	Total	Per cent
Paratactical main cl.	415	16	31	24	1	9	7	22	525	51.1
Subject cl.	—	—	13	—	—	1	—	—	14	1.4
Object cl.	27	1	73	11	—	18	—	2	132	12.9
Attributive cl.	62	10	10	6	—	3	5	10	108	10.4
Complementary cl.	59	—	10	5	—	8	1	2	85	8.3
Temporal cl.	42	1	6	10	—	5	1	8	73	7.1
Cl. of Manner	6	1	3	—	1	2	2	—	15	1.5
Consecutive cl.	9	—	9	2	—	—	—	3	23	2.2
Causal cl.	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	1	8	0.8
Final cl.	—	—	27	6	—	1	—	—	34	3.3
Conditional cl.	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	5	0.5
Concessive cl.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	0.2
Other clauses	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	0.3
TOTAL	622	29	188	72	2	48	16	48	1,025	100
Per cent	60.7	2.8	18.3	7.0	0.2	4.7	1.5	4.7	100	—

Fig. 1. Condensation instances in K. Mansfield's *Bliss and Other Stories*.

In contrast with the total number of 1,025 cases of condensation in the English version, the Czech translation of Mansfield's stories contains only 44 instances of complex condensation. (8)

In order to see whether the different degrees of condensation as revealed by the above-examined English book and its Czech translation are not a result of the translator's individual approach to his tasks, a Czech novel and its English translation were subjected to analysis by A. Hladká, who confronted K. Čapek's novel *Krakatit* with its English translation by L. Hyde, published under the title *An Atomic Phantasy*. (9)

	Present Participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Other Means	Total	Per cent
Paratactical main cl.	217	10	12	13	—	—	10	17	279	48.3
Subject cl.	1	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	13	2.2
Object cl.	17	—	73	21	2	7	—	2	122	21.3
Attributive cl.	6	3	8	1	—	—	—	1	19	3.3
Complementary cl.	20	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	22	3.8
Temporal cl.	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	6	1.0
Cl. of Manner	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	5	13	2.2
Consecutive cl.	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.6
Causal cl.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.3
Final cl.	—	1	78	8	—	—	—	1	88	15.2
Conditional cl.	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.9
Concessive cl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other clauses	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	0.9
TOTAL	287	15	195	51	2	7	10	31	578	100
Per cent	46.0	2.5	34.1	8.9	0.3	1.2	1.8	5.2	100	

Fig. 2. Condensation instances in K. Čapek's *An Atomic Phantasy*.

Both tables confirm J. Vachek's results quoted in his paper (cf. Note 1): the most frequent condensers in English are the participles, followed by infinitives and gerunds. The most frequent Czech clauses replacing the English participial cases of condensation are paratactically arranged main clauses, while the infinitives are opposed to Czech final and object clauses (the latter often expressing wish, request, etc.). — It should be added that in the corresponding Czech context only 188 condensation cases were ascertained.

As it is not possible to illustrate all main types of condensation by suitable specimens, at least three sentences are offered here, two from K. Mansfield's book and one from Čapek's *An Atomic Phantasy*.

1. She went over to the window and leaned against it, pressing her hands against the pane. — M 6
Přistoupila k oknu, opřela se o ně a ruce přitiskla na okenní tabulky. — M 11
2. I thought so at the time and decided to make a note of it. — M 75
Tak mě to tehdy napadlo a umínil jsem si, že si to zapíši. — M 64
3. Would there never be a sound, the cry of a bird, the barking of a dog in a village, some sign of life? — Č 244
Což se nic neozve, nezavolá pták, neštěkne ve vsi pes, nedá nic znamenat života? — Č 307

The instance 1 represents the most frequent type of complex condensation — a present participle in English, opposed to a paratactical clause in Czech. The instance 2 exemplifies a commonly known construction with an infinitive acting as a condenser

The instance 3 is a good illustration of the nominal tenor of the English sentence as opposed to the Czech original, where four finite verbs convey actions rendered in English by nouns.

Besides the above-mentioned books of narrative prose, also specialized contexts were subjected to analysis. O. Kříž compared A. L. Morton's *History of England* with its Czech translation, (10) arriving at convincing results, although the Czech translation cannot be considered a first-class one. As already noted by J. Vachek, the translators often preserve the nominal tenor of the English sentences, e. g. by employing — to a higher degree than is desirable — the indefinite perfect participles (such as *vzav, zajistiv* etc.).

	Present Participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Other Means	Total	Per cent
Paratactical main cl.	72	6	9	3	—	5	1	13	110	22.0
Subject cl.	—	—	20	—	—	6	—	—	26	5.2
Object cl.	6	—	34	12	—	14	—	2	70	14.0
Attributive cl.	30	36	23	8	—	16	9	8	145	29.0
Complementary cl.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	0.2
Temporal cl.	6	4	1	2	—	3	—	—	16	3.2
Cl. of Manner	—	—	30	—	—	2	—	2	34	6.8
Consecutive cl.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.4
Causal cl.	13	1	—	2	—	7	—	—	23	4.6
Final cl.	1	—	39	3	—	—	—	—	43	8.6
Conditional cl.	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	0.6
Concessive cl.	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	7	12	2.4
Other clauses	2	3	2	3	—	—	1	4	15	3.0
TOTAL	147	51	166	33	—	56	11	36	500	100
Per cent	29.4	10.2	33.2	6.6	—	11.2	2.2	7.2	100	

Fig. 3. Condensation instances in A. L. Morton's *A People's History of England*.

The Czech version contains only 57 instances of condensation, mostly due to the introduction into the sentence of a noun or an adjective, often derived from a verb. A Czech condensation employing a verbal adjective as condenser is given below.

4. The food that was gathered for the social group, the animals that were hunted, the fish that was caught, were jointly produced and jointly consumed. — MO 20
 Nasbírané potraviny, nalovená zvíř a nachyatané ryby se spotřebovaly společně, stejně jako se společně pěstovaly a lovily. — MO 13

A number of specialized Czech contexts translated into English were analysed by J. Hladký. Not all of them, however, can be considered reliable as regards the quality of translation. A comparison of the ratios of instances of complex condensation reveals that in books translated by native Englishmen the majority of instances of complex condensation is, as a rule, on the English side, while in books translated by native Czech translators the Czech condensation cases outnumber those found in English. We have, therefore, abstained from including in the present paper results from Czech specialized contexts, the translators of which are not known or are known to be born Czechs. The following table is based on books by Z. Wirth, V. Chaloupecký and L. Štoll. (11)

	Present Participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Other Means	Total	Per cent
Paratactical main cl.	6	2	2	2	—	2	—	9	23	11.5
Subject cl.	—	—	4	2	—	—	1	—	7	3.5
Object cl.	6	2	36	2	—	2	2	1	57	28.5
Attributive cl.	18	20	14	5	—	8	—	11	76	38.0
Complementary cl.	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	2.5
Temporal cl.	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	5	2.5
Cl. of Manner	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	5	2.5
Consecutive cl.	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1.5
Causal cl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final cl.	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	15	7.5
Conditional cl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concessive cl.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.5
Other clauses	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3	1.5
TOTAL	35	26	77	23	—	13	3	23	200	100
Per cent	17.5	13.0	38.5	11.5	—	6.5	1.5	11.5	100	100

Fig. 4. Condensation instances in books by Z. Wirth, V. Chaloupecký and L. Štoll.

The number of condensation cases of the opposite type (i. e. a Czech condenser as opposed to a finite verb in English) in the three above-mentioned books is comparatively higher than in any of the preceding contexts — 146 instances. Some commentary on this fact will be offered in Chapter Two, where differences ascertainable between the individual contexts will be discussed. Upon the whole, however, the examined specialized contexts reveal the same tendencies as the above-noted narrative prose works.

Although most of the above tables are based on sufficient quantities of instances, it may be of some interest to summarize all the established data in one table and to include in the table the numbers of Czech condensation cases, so that the method of analysis employed and its results may stand out with particular clearness.

	Present Participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Other Means	Total English	Total Czech
Mansfield	622	29	188	72	2	48	16	48	1,025	44
Čapek	267	15	195	51	2	7	10	31	578	188
TOTAL narrative	889	44	383	123	4	55	26	79	1,603	232
Morton	147	51	166	33	—	56	11	36	500	57
Wirth etc.	35	26	77	23	—	13	3	23	200	146
TOTAL specialized	182	77	243	56	—	69	14	59	700	203
TOTAL	1,071	121	626	179	4	124	40	138	2,303	435

Fig. 5. Condensation instances in all analysed contexts.

As has been indicated above, the four analyses drawing their conclusions from the comparison of corresponding Czech and English contexts are accompanied by the study of O. Tichá, who approaches the problem from a diachronical angle. Her method of analysis uses identical texts dating from different periods of the development of language, i. e. one from the Early Modern English period and one from Modern English. The most useful texts of the desired type are to be found in the Bible. O. Tichá analyses the four gospels from the Authorized Version and from The Moffatt Translation. (12)

	Present Participle	Past Participle	Infinitive	Gerund	Verbal Noun	Noun	Adjective	Apposition	Omitted "To Be"	Other Means	Total	Per cent
Paratactical main cl.	153	11	58	27	4	32	3	3	7	16	314	26.3
Subject cl.	1	2	3	4	—	66	1	1	7	3	88	7.4
Object cl.	10	2	111	14	—	88	8	—	10	4	247	20.6
Attributive cl.	12	37	11	8	1	49	21	84	48	15	286	24.0
Complementary cl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temporal cl.	27	2	8	59	1	27	3	—	1	5	133	11.1
Cl. of Manner	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	2	7	0.6
Consecutive cl.	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	5	0.4
Causal cl.	1	—	1	8	—	1	—	—	—	1	12	1.0
Final cl.	—	—	71	7	—	5	—	—	—	1	84	7.1
Conditional cl.	—	—	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	9	0.8
Concessive cl.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	0.3
TOTAL	204	54	269	130	6	278	37	88	76	51	1193	100
Per cent	17.2	4.5	22.5	10.9	0.5	23.3	3.1	7.4	6.4	4.2	100	

Fig. 6. Condensation instances in The Moffatt Translation.

Here again, the tabulated results confirm J. Vachek's hypothesis, concerning the increase of the use of complex condensation cases during the historical development of English. — The condensed character of the Modern English version is also clearly revealed by the fact that to the 1193 instances of condensation found in Moffatt are opposed only 385 contrary cases, i. e. those in which the Authorized Version condensed the idea expressed by Moffatt's clause.

Out of the rich store of the condensation types present in the last-mentioned context, we are quoting at least three sentences.

5. ... he marvelled, and said to them that followed, ...
... , he marvelled; ... , he said to his followers, ... — M 8,10
6. Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, ...
On hearing this, some of the bystanders said, ... M 27,47
7. And he left them, & entering into the ship againe, departed to the other side.
Then he left them, embarked again, and went away to the opposite side. — Mk 8,13

The instance 5 demonstrates the most frequent means of complex condensation used in the Moffatt translation, viz. the noun. Although this type of condensation differs from the instances employing the so-called classical condensers (i. e. condensers enumerated on p. 105), it certainly supplies an impressive illustration of the

nominal tendencies operating in modern English. — In instance 6, a gerund is acting as condenser of a subordinate clause of time. — A rather surprising fact is the low number of participial cases of condensation in the Moffatt translation and, conversely, their high frequency in the Authorized Version, where more than a half of the 385 condensers are participles. O. Tichá explains this as due to Dr. Moffatt's striving after greater stylistic simplicity and naturalness of his language. This striving has led to the frequent use of paratactical finite verb forms where the AV employs condensing participles (cf. instance 7).

So much on the results of individual analyses performed by the members of the circle. In the next chapter we should like to give some general conclusions resulting from their work considered as a whole.

II

The tendency towards nominal expression in contemporary English, of which the complex condensation phenomena may be regarded as evidence, has asserted itself in the sentence materials discussed in Chapter One with sufficient clearness. There exist, however, certain differences between the individual types of contexts, on which some commentary is offered in the following lines.

One of the features requiring some explanation is the relatively high percentage of Czech condensation cases in the original Czech contexts if compared with the contexts translated from English. A detailed analysis of this problem would of course require further research based on a greater number of instances, and therefore only a tentative explanation can be presented here.

Some of the instances of condensation in Czech are due to the introduction into the English sentence of some stylistically motivated phrase or construction requiring another finite verb. Two such constructions are instanced in 8 and 9 below.

8. In 1409 it was chiefly the foreign Germans who left, ... — U 109

Z Prahy roku 1409 odešli především Němci zahraniční, ... — U 102.

9. ... and tackles what is from the aesthetic point of view an extremely important problem — Š 14

... a natukává s hlediska estetiky nesmírně důležitý problém, ... — Š 8

But the main source of the Czech condensation cases in our materials are the Czech definite participles translated into English by means of subordinate clauses, as shown below in 10 and 11.

10. Finally there remains a remark about the standpoint of the painter and draughtsman who have grasped the picture of Prague. — W 23

Na konec zbývá ještě zmínka o stanovisku malíře a kreslíře, zachycujícího obraz Prahy. — W 21

11. Inside there was the musty smell of rooms which have long been unoccupied and from which almost all life has departed. — Č 78

Bylo tu cítit jakousi stuchlinu bytu dlouho neužívaného a skoro odumřelého. — Č 100

Even if all Czech participles cannot be expected to be translated by English participles, it seems probable that part of the high number of Czech participles translated by English subordinate clauses is due to the high burdening of these participles, which have to convey a number of grammatical categories. E. g. *zachycujícího* in 10 conveys the category of number, case and gender and of time and — last but not least — that of aspect. If a translator then wants to give a full-scale formal expression to all categories conveyed by the participle, he has to resort to the use of a whole clause. Moreover it seems probable that the form of the participle may become

very difficult to disentangle for a translator not fully acquainted with the mechanism of aspect in Czech. This suggestion seems to be supported by the fact that even the subordinate clauses used by the translator need not always present a correct rendering of the participle (cf. also instance 10 above). And perhaps the whole question has another aspect that should be taken into account: the translators from English into Czech are supported in their work by a long and successful tradition created by their predecessors and possibly also by some theoretical studies in the characterology of the concerned languages. On the other hand, the translators from Czech to English are often pioneering along nearly untrodden paths. (13)

As has been expected *a priori*, the ratios of cases of complex condensation for the English and Czech contexts are different on the level of narrative prose and on the level of professional prose (cf. Fig. 5). The explanation seems to be quite at hand: Czech professional prose is more nominal (and more condensed) than the narrative prose — a fact recorded by B. Havránek as early as in 1932. (14) The English narrative style is characterized by a frequent use of complex condensation and the same may be expected about the specialized style, even if the difference between the two styles in English is probably smaller than the corresponding difference in Czech. Unfortunately, the very fruitful method of comparing the two languages in question cannot be profitably employed here. What is needed, is the establishment of the 'degree of condensation', as we might call it, of each of the two languages taken separately. But if the method of comparison with another language (or with an analogous context from some other historical period of the same language) is abandoned, the background, on which the phenomenon of complex condensation can be ascertained, is lost. At least a tentative answer to our question may be found, if only undoubted instances of complex condensation are taken into account, such as can be identified at first sight. Such instances are present in the group of the most frequent condensers, viz. the participles, and also in the category of gerunds. Two examples will suffice to show the main types concerned.

12. So he flew round and round her, touching the water with his wings and making silver ripples. — HP 13
13. . . . ; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming. — HP 13

The sentences with infinitival condensers cannot be included, because sometimes it is very difficult to decide whether the case in question represents an instance of condensation or not.

The simplest narrative prose is that of the fairy-tales and of children's books. Therefore it is not surprising to find that in O. Wilde's *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* and in two children's books (15) only about 16 per cent of the sentences of the descriptive passages (all direct and semi-direct speech being left out) contain an instance of condensation of the above undoubted type. In several shorter contexts taken from literary prose (16) the percentage varies from 31 to 49 sentences (A. Huxley 31, J. Hilton 38, E. Linklater 40 and J. Galsworthy 49). In English specialized contexts (17) the number of sentences containing a condensation case of the above type may rise above 50 per cent (Medical Dictionary of Pears' Cyclopaedia — 53 per cent, R. F. Treharne's article — 50 per cent), but it may be also lower than that (H. Truscott's analysis of a Schubert's quartet — 44, The Wars of the Roses in Encyclopedia Britannica — 39 per cent). We have even found an article where the percentage is very low — below 13 per cent —, but the whole text is too short to be considered as reliable. (18) To a certain degree, the analysis of the specialized contexts is rather surprising, but it must be borne in mind that only a small number

of contexts has been analysed and that the method employed does not cover all types of complex condensation and all manifestations of the nominal expression in English. The above percentages in the specialized contexts may reveal interesting differences between the narrative and professional styles, but this question requires further investigation within a wider setting (the character of the English verb etc.). At present this investigation must remain outside the scope of the present *Remarks* and we hope to discuss it elsewhere.

The degree of condensation of the Czech texts is as expected: a context from children's literature (19) contains only a few condensation cases and in four contexts from literary prose (20) the percentage ranges from 11 to 19 per cent (K. Čapek 11, I. Olbracht 15, J. Drda 17, M. Pujmanová 19). And in professional prose the number of sentences with participial condensations rises even higher: Z. Wirth 33, A. Jirásek 27, V. Menzl 25 per cent. (21) Especially the style of Z. Wirth is of a character now not very frequent in specialized works: highly condensed, with an accumulation of nominal forms in long sentences, as may be seen from the following example.

14. Zřejmě z popudu nakladatele přílohy do leptu, tónově tak vyrovnaného, vložený primitivně bílý seznam čísel ukazuje již na zhrubělý vkus, který se v té době dostavuje v německé grafice. — W 39

Although the above attempt at a quantitative appreciation of the degree of condensation in English and Czech taken separately suffers from lack of perfection of the method employed, at least some light may have been thrown on questions that will have to be tackled in the future. Our tentative analysis might possibly indicate that in English the specialized style need not resort to the use of the method of complex condensation in a frequency markedly higher than that of the narrative style. On the other hand, in Czech, where the narrative style is far from being remarkably condensed, the authors of professional prose resort to the use of condensers more often than the authors of narrative prose.

A question inviting investigation are the conditions inside the sphere of the participial cases of condensation, where several types, more or less distinct, may be observed. The first type are the condensation instances exemplified in 1 and 12: the action expressed by the condenser refers to the subject of the sentence (loosely speaking, of course). As a rule, such condensers are separated from their main clauses by commas, perhaps because the grammatical relation of a condenser of the present type to a main clause is not of a direct character (on the function of the English punctuation, cf. J. Firbas and V. Fried). (22) In the instances taken from K. Mansfield's stories, (6) however, the condensation cases of the discussed type are not separated by commas when preceding the main clause — this may be due to the intention of stressing their coherence with the main clause and of distinguishing them from absolute constructions. Another type of "subjective" condensation cases without commas is instanced in the following sentence.

15. As she lay waiting for things to stop spinning, ... — M 33
Jak tak ležela a čekala, až se přestane všechno motat, ... — M 31

This is a well-known construction in modern English. The finite verb (usually *lie, stand, sit* etc.) is dynamically very weak and the form of the whole construction then comes very near a sentence with a progressive verb form, although it cannot be identified with it: **As she was waiting for things to stop spinning, ...*

The condensation instances exemplified in 1 and 12 do not, as a matter of fact, replace any subordinate clause in English (and in Czech they are mostly rendered

by main clauses or by paratactically arranged finite verbs). And as these instances of condensation represent a very powerful type in contemporary English, it appears that the definition of complex condensation (cf. p. 105) should be made more general by replacing the specification "subordinate clause" by a more general term, so that complex condensation would be defined as "the introduction into a sentence of a nominal element or phrase (condenser, for short) enabling the said sentence to do without a hypotactically or paratactically arranged clause the use of which would otherwise be indispensable" (for the original version of the definition of complex condensation as conceived by V. Mathesius, cf. J. Vachek, Note 1).

Other types of participial instances of complex condensation are exemplified by the two sentences below.

16. She opened her eyes wide, and she heard the silence spinning its soft endless web. — M 25
Rozevřela široce oči a slyšela, jak ticho přede svou hebkou nekonečnou pavučinu. — M 25
17. ...; she leaned back against the buttoned leather cushions and shut her eyes, her lips trembling with laughter. — M 1
Opřela se o kožené polštáře, přišitě knoflíky, zavřela oči a rty se jí třáslы smíchem. — M 7

In Mansfield's book, the construction instanced in 17 (the nominative absolutum participle construction) is comparatively rare, while the type exemplified under 1 (a construction with a secondary subject) is found more often.

When a construction with a secondary subject follows after verbs like *see*, *hear* (and other verbs of sensual perception), there are two possible ways of condensation as is well known: either by means of a participle (cf. instance 16) or by means of an infinitive (e. g. ... *standing at the bottom of the road outside Mr. Bullen's gate she can hear the sea sob: "Ah! ...* — M 319). This is a phenomenon belonging to the sphere of rivalry between the infinitive and the verbal *ing*-forms, a question very complicated and already dealt with by I. Poldauf. (23)

Finally we should like to comment on one purely formal aspect of complex condensation cases. If a sentence containing an instance of complex condensation were "discondensed", so to speak, it would be necessary to introduce into it some formal words (conjunctions etc.) and/or words conveying grammatical categories, already conveyed, however, by the subject and the finite verb. From the point of view of functional sentence perspective, (24) these conveyers are often dynamically very weak, occurring in the spheres of the theme and transition. Therefore an introduction of a condenser into a sentence also prevents repetition of some dynamically weak sentence elements.

By way of closing our remarks on the phenomenon of complex condensation as reflected in some English and Czech contexts, we should like to recapitulate the main issues discussed. As has been already shown by J. Vachek, (1) the method of complex condensation is one of the foundation stones in the structure of the English sentence. A detailed analysis of several contexts confirms his conception, providing sufficient quantities of material for the purpose of establishing the main types of condensation instances and of the condensers employed. The complexity of the implications of the whole problem, especially as regards the differences between the levels of narrative and professional prose, requires further investigation within a wider setting, so that more decisive conclusions could be drawn.

(1) Cf. Chapter IV of J. Vachek's study *On Some Less Familiar Aspects of the Analytical Trend of English*, included in the present volume.

(2) J. Nosek, *Několik poznámek k polovětným vazbám v angličtině XVII. století* (Some Remarks concerning 'Semi-Sentence' Constructions in XVIIth Century English), *Acta Universitatis Carolinae* 1954, 7: Philologica et Historica, pp. 23—36; Vl. Hrabě, *O polovětné vazbě a vedlejší predikaci* (On Semi-Sentence Construction and Secondary Predication), *O vědeckém poznání současných jazyků* (On the Research into Contemporary Languages), Praha 1958, pp. 259—263. A short English summary of Vl. Hrabě's paper may be found in J. Krámský's *A Report on the Prague Conference on the Scientific Study of Languages*, *Časopis pro moderní filologii-Philologica* 9/1957, pp. 51—55.

(3) The main difference between the phenomena of complex condensation and the semi-sentence constructions is that while the latter are a syntactical category the former refer to the way in which a sentence is built.

(4) J. Macháček, *A Contribution to the Problem of the so-called Copulas in Modern English*, *Philologica Pragensia* 2/1959, pp. 14—20.

(5) J. Fírbas, *Thoughts on the Communicative Function of the Verb in English, German and Czech*, *Brno Studies in English* I, 1959, pp. 39—63; *More Thoughts on the Communicative Function of the English Verb*, *Sborník prací filosofické fakulty brněnské university* 1959, A7, pp. 74—98; *On the Communicative Value of the Modern English Finite Verb*, included in the present volume.

(6) K. Mansfield, *Bliss and Other Stories*, Constable, London 1927, pp. 280, K. Mansfieldová, *Zahradní slavnost*, translated by A. Skoumal, Vyšehrad, Praha 1952, pp. 7—221 (abbr. M).

(7) J. Čaha, *Mansfieldové Zahradní slavnost, Pokus o rozbor překladu* (Mansfield's Garden Party, An Attempt at an Evaluation of the Translation), *Časopis pro moderní filologii* 37/1955, pp. 294—301.

(8) As the numbers of Czech instances of complex condensation are comparatively low in all the contexts analysed, we have refrained from tabulating the frequency of the individual types of the condensers. Upon the whole, the most frequently used condensers in Czech are the definite participles, in the category of which we are also including the so-called verbal adjectives.

(9) K. Čapek, *Krakatit*, Aventinum, Praha 1928, translated into English under the title of *An Atomic Phantasy* by L. Hyde, 2nd ed., Allen and Unwin, London 1948 (abbr. Č).

(10) A. L. Morton, *A People's History of England*, Lawrence & Wishart, London 1948; A. L. Morton, *Dějiny Anglie*, Svoboda, Praha 1950 (abbr. MO). The instances have been drawn from pp. 15—165 and 9—124 of the two versions, respectively.

(11) Z. Wirth, *Praha v obraze pěti století*, Jan Štenc, Praha 1938, and Z. Wirth, *Prague in Pictures of Five Centuries*, translated by F. P. Marchant, Štenc, Praha 1938; V. Chaloupecký, *Karlová Universita v Praze*, Orbis, Praha 1948, and V. Chaloupecký, *The Caroline University of Prague*, translated by V. Fried and W. R. Lee, Orbis, Praha 1948; L. Štoll, *Skutečnosti tváří v tvář*, Orbis, Praha 1948, and L. Štoll, *Face to Face with Reality*, translated by Stephen Jolly, Orbis, Praha 1948. When reference is made to these contexts, they are abbreviated as W, U and Š, respectively.

(12) *The Authorised Version of the English Bible*, vol. V, Cambridge University Press 1909, and *The Moffatt Translation of the Bible*, Hodder and Stoughton, London 1953.

(13) In recent years, however, a number of Czech books was translated into English and published by Artia, Prague. — As both prose works and works of specialized character are involved and as the translators are native Englishmen, it would be of some interest to study the phenomena of complex condensation on these contexts. Unfortunately, the publications were not yet available when the present analyses were being prepared.

(14) Cf. B. Havránek, *Úkoly spisovného jazyka a jeho kultura in Spisovná čeština a jazyková kultura*, Melantrich, Praha 1932, pp. 32—84.

(15) O. Wilde, *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, Tauchnitz, Leipzig 1890 (abbr. HP); *Little Squirrel Story Book* and *Sunny Stories for the Very Young*, vol. 12 and 11 of the Early Reader Series published by the Hampster Books, London. A total of 375 sentences were analysed from *The Happy Prince* and 488 from the other contexts.

(16) A. Huxley, *The Gioconda Smile*, The Albatros, Hamburg 1933 (300 sentences); J. Hilton, *We are Not Alone*, The Albatros, Leipzig 1938 (300 sentences); E. Linklater, *Magnus Meriman*, The Albatros, Hamburg 1935 (330 sentences); J. Galsworthy, *The Forsyte Saga*, Heinemann, London 1926 (300 instances).

(17) *Pears' Cyclopaedia*, 46th ed., Isleworth 1932 (600 sentences drawn from the Medical Dictionary, pp. 746—756); R. F. Treharne, *The Nature of Parliament in the Reign of Henry III*,

The English Historical Review 74/1959, pp. 590—610 (only 109 sentences); H. Truscott, *Schubert's String Quartet in D Minor*, *The Music Review* 20/1959, pp. 119 — 145 (370 sentences); *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, vol. 8, pp. 503—509; *English History — The Wars of the Roses*, 14th ed., 1929 (330 sentences).

(18) G. E. Fussell, *Low Countries' Influence on English Farming*, *The English Historical Review* 74/1959, pp. 611—622 (164 sentences).

(19) K. Čapek, *Dášenka čili život štěňte*, Borový, Praha 1936.

(20) K. Čapek, *Krakatit*, SNKLHU, Praha 1958 (400 sentences); I. Olbracht, *Nikola Šuhaj Loupežník*, SNKLHU, Praha 1955 (424 sentences); J. Drda, *Městečko na dlani*, Čs. spisovatel, Praha 1956 (300 sentences); M. Pujmanová, *Lidé na křížovatce*, Čs. spisovatel, Praha 1950 (300 sentences).

(21) Z. Wirth, *Praha v obraze pěti století*, Jan Štenc, Praha 1938 (300 sentences); A. Jirásek, *Chirurgie bolesti*, NČSAV, Praha 1959 (300 sentences); V. Menzl, *Architektura předrománských Čech*, *Umění* 7/1959, pp. 331 — 353 (240 sentences).

(22) Cf. J. Firbas, *Anglická větná interpunkce, Pokus o její lingvistický výklad (English Sentence Punctuation, An Attempt at a Linguistic Interpretation)*, *Časopis pro moderní filologii* 36/1954, pp. 152—164, Summary in English on pp. 190—192; V. Fried, *Anglická interpunkce*, SPN, Praha 1954,

(23) I. Poldauf, *O konkurenci infinitivu a gerundu v angličtině (On the Rivalry Between the Infinitive and the Gerund in English)*, *Časopis pro moderní filologii* 37/1955, pp. 203—223, Summary in English on pp. 254—255.

(24) For a brief summary of the theory of functional sentence perspective see pp. 42 — 44 of J. Firbas's paper *Thoughts on the Communicative Function of the Verb in English, German and Czech* (cf. our Note 5). A bibliography of the main papers dealing with the theory of functional sentence perspective is to be found in the same paper, esp. in Notes 1a, 3 to 6, and 12.

