

Univerzita Karlova

Filozofická fakulta

Ústav anglického jazyka a didaktiky



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA
Univerzita Karlova

Bakalářská práce

Vlastislav Ryšavý

“*Absolutely*” and its Czech translation counterparts

„*Absolutely*” a jeho české překladové protějšky

Rád bych poděkoval vedoucí své bakalářské práce, PhDr. Gabriele Brůhové, Ph.D., za cenné rady, věcné připomínky, vstřícnost při konzultacích, trpělivost a ochotu, kterou mi v průběhu zpracování bakalářské práce věnovala.

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracoval samostatně, že jsem řádně citoval všechny použité prameny a literaturu a že tato práce nebyla využita v rámci jiného vysokoškolského studia či k získání jiného nebo stejného titulu.

V Praze dne 5. srpna 2019

.....
Vlastislav Ryšavý

*Souhlasím se zapůjčením bakalářské práce ke studijním účelům.
I have no objections to the BA thesis being borrowed and used for study purposes.*

ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá funkcemi adverbia *absolutely* v současné angličtině a jeho možnostmi překladu do českého jazyka. Toto adverbium se užívá typicky jako příslovečné určení míry nebo jako intenzifikační modifikátor (zejména ve spojení se stupňovatelnými adjektivy, substantivy a slovesy). Příznačné je jeho užití zejména v neformálním mluveném jazyce, kde může zastávat rovněž funkci krátké neverbální odpovědi na pomezí elipsy ve funkci důrazného souhlasu. Čím dál častěji se však tato adverbia objevují i ve formálním hovoru (např. oficiálních projevech). Teoretická část práce charakterizuje zkoumané adverbium z formálního, pragmatického, morfologického i syntakticko-sémantického hlediska. Dále dokládá příklady užití tohoto adverbia ve větě s odkazem na funkce a situace, v nichž se vyskytuje. Analytická část této práce je pojata jako korpusově založená studie obsahující 150 příkladů extrahovaných z paralelního korpusu *InterCorp*, přesněji z rozhraní *KonText*. Příklady ilustrují formální použití studovaného jevu ve formálním mluveném projevu předneseném v Evropském parlamentu. Na základě těchto dat analytická část práce pracuje s konkordančními řádky získanými z rozhraní *KonText* a porovnává anglický originál s českým překladem. Přitom se zaměřuje na funkci adverbia ve větě a jeho český překladový protějšek.

klíčová slova: *absolutely*, adjunkt, adverbium, *Český národní korpus*, disjunkt, Evropský parlament, *emphasizer*, intenzifikace, *InterCorp*, projev, promluva, *maximizer*, modifikace, mluvený jazyk, subjunkt, syntax, stupeň, *Treq*

ABSTRACT

This BA thesis is concerned with the functions of the adverb *absolutely* in contemporary English and its Czech translation counterparts. This adverb is typically employed as an adverbial of degree, or an intensifying modifier, most commonly with gradable adjectives, nouns and verbs. The use of *absolutely* is characteristic of primarily informal spoken English, where it may also occur in responses as an emphatic agreement forming ellipsis. The adverbial itself, however, appears to be becoming increasingly more frequent in formal speech as well (i. e. public speeches). The theoretical part of this thesis characterises the adverb from formal, pragmatic, morphological, and syntactic/semantic points of view. Furthermore, it features examples of usage in accordance with the functions and situations featuring *absolutely*. The functions of *absolutely* are examined in the analytical part of the thesis, specifically on the corpus of 150 examples drawn from the parallel corpus *InterCorp* and its interface *KonText*. The examples illustrate the use of *absolutely* in formal speeches delivered in the European Parliament. Based on the analysis of concordance lines, Czech translation counterparts come under scrutiny.

keywords: *absolutely*, adjunct, adverb, *Czech National Corpus*, degree, discourse, disjunct, European Parliament, emphasizer, intensifier, *InterCorp*, maximizer, modification, spoken language, speech, subjunct, syntax, *Treq*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	11
2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	12
2.1 Morphological features of adverbs.....	12
2.2 <i>Absolutely</i> from the semantic point of view.....	13
2.2.1 The meaning of <i>absolutely</i>	13
2.3 Syntactic functions of adverbs	14
2.3.1 Intensifiers and their functions	15
2.3.1.1 Scaling modifiers.....	17
2.3.1.2 <i>Absolutely</i> as a primary intensifier	18
2.3.1.3 Subgroups of degree adjuncts.....	19
2.3.1.4 Prosodically detached adjuncts.....	19
2.3.1.5 Modification and comparison of maximizers.....	20
2.3.1.6 Discourse choices for degree adverbs as modifiers.....	21
2.3.2 Types of adverbials	22
2.3.2.1 Adjuncts and subjuncts.....	22
2.3.2.2 Disjuncts	23
2.3.2.3 Conjuncts.....	23
2.3.3 <i>Absolutely</i> and its syntactic functions	23
2.3.3.1 Modification of words	25
2.3.3.2 Modification of (parts of) minor clauses	27
2.3.3.3 <i>Absolutely</i> as a stand-alone marker	27
2.3.4 Previous research	29
2.3.4.1 Adjective intensifiers.....	29
2.3.4.2 Adjective collocations	30
2.3.4.3 Syntactic functions and distribution	32
3. MATERIAL AND METHOD.....	34
3.1 Material	34

3.2	Method	34
4.	ANALYSIS	36
4.1	<i>Absolutely</i> as a modifier of words	36
4.1.1	Modification of adjectives	37
4.1.2	Modification of verb phrases	41
4.1.2.1	Lexical and copular verbs.....	42
4.1.2.2	Auxiliary verbs	42
4.1.3	Modification of determiners	44
4.1.4	Modification of other word classes.....	44
4.2	<i>Absolutely</i> as a sentence modifier	44
4.3	Analysis of Czech translation counterparts.....	45
4.3.1	<i>Absolutely</i> and a selection of its Czech counterparts.....	45
4.3.2	General observations.....	46
4.3.3	Czech counterparts of <i>absolutely</i> in the case of adjectival premodification.....	48
4.3.4	Czech counterparts of <i>absolutely</i> in the case of verbal intensification and sentence modifiers.....	53
4.3.5	Czech counterparts of <i>absolutely</i> (premodification of determiners)	54
4.3.6	Czech counterparts of <i>absolutely</i> in the case of premodification of pronouns ...	55
4.4	Czech translation counterparts and aspects of connotation and denotation.....	56
4.4.1	Positive and neutral vs negative connotation.....	57
5.	CONCLUSION	61
5.1	General overview	61
5.2	Obstacles and issues	63
6.	REFERENCES	64
6.1	Bibliography.....	64
6.2	Sources and tools.....	65
7.	RESUMÉ.....	66
8.	APPENDIX	70

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Examples of formation of derivational adverbs using nouns
(Dušková et al., 2012: 160)

Table 2: Modification and comparison of maximizers
(Quirk et al., 1985: 592)

Table 3: Distribution of most common amplifiers in BrE and AmE conversation and in academic prose (Biber et al., 1999: 565)

Table 4: Subjuncts and their sub-categories
(Quirk et al., 1985: 567)

Table 5: Adjective intensifiers in DCPSE, COLT and SCoSE
(Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 219)

Table 6: Syntactic distribution of *absolutely* in DCPSE and COLT
(Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 224)

Table 7: Syntactic distribution of *absolutely* in DCPSE and COLT
(Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 222)

Table 8: Distribution of the syntactic functions of *absolutely* in the analysed BNC data
(Carretero 2010: 204)

LIST OF CHARTS AND FIGURES

Figure 1: *Absolutely* and the word class it premodifies (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

Figure 2: *Absolutely* as an adjectival modifier (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

Figure 3: Distribution of *absolutely* in verb phrases (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

Figure 4: *Absolutely* and a selection of its most frequent Czech counterparts (*Treq*)

Figure 5: Distribution of Czech equivalents of *absolutely*; analysis of the appendix (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

Figure 6: Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of adjectival premodification

Figure 7: Recurrent Czech counterparts of *absolutely* (corpus overview)

Figure 8: Czech counterparts of *absolutely*: verb phrases

Figure 9: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of premodification of determiners

Figure 10: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely* (premodification of pronouns)

Figure 11: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely*; factor: connotation (*KonText*)

Figure 12: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely*; negative connotation (*KonText*)

Figure 13: *Absolutely* as a modifier: overview (*KonText*, 150 occurrences)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AmE – American English

BrE – British English

DP – determinative phrase

NP – noun phrase

the COLT corpus – The Bergen Corpus of London Teenage Language

the DCPSE corpus – The Diachronic Corpus of Present-Day Spoken English

the SCoSe corpus – The Saarbrücken Corpus of Spoken English

Treq – Translation Equivalents Database

VG oriented clauses – verbal-gender oriented clauses

VP oriented adjuncts – verb-phrase oriented adjuncts

1. INTRODUCTION

This thesis focuses on the adverbial of degree *absolutely* and its Czech translation counterparts. Although the primary function of adverbs is generally considered to denote completeness as a modifier or an adverbial, studies made in recent years suggest there has been an increase in the functions an adverbial may be performing, specifically regarding responses bordering on ellipsis.

The thesis comprises of two parts, the theoretical part and the empirical part. The former is concerned with the essential characteristics of the English adverb *absolutely*. Its traits are discussed mainly from the morphological, syntactic, and pragmatic points of view. Due to discrepancies occurring among various grammarians of the English language as to the nature of the studied phenomenon, a wide range of English grammars has been selected for the purpose of this thesis. As the primary sources for the theoretical background, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Quirk et al., 1985), *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002), and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (Biber et al., 1999) have been chosen as primary sources. In addition, *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (Dušková et al., 2012) and a variety of preceding studies featuring innovative adverbial functions (Carretero 2010, Pertejo & Martínez 2012, Aijmer 2016) have been drawn on to complete the accessible data when requisite.

For the purposes of the latter, a corpus comprising of 150 concordance lines was created, demonstrating the use of *absolutely* in formal speeches given in the European Parliament. All data was gathered from the parallel corpus *InterCorp* and its interface *KonText* without making any preselections or modifications. Besides the use in English, available Czech translation counterparts have been collected as well in order to determine the frequency and nature of these counterparts as compared to the English original.

The main goal of the research is to perform a comparison verifying the functions of the studied adverb and to analyse its Czech translation counterparts. The results of this research are subject to qualitative analysis.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Morphological features of adverbs

From a morphological point of view, *absolutely* is considered an adverb. The adverb functions “as the head of an adverb phrase, with or without modification” (Quirk et al., 1985: 438). Despite its clear roles in a sentence, the adverb class is highly heterogeneous, taking into account various forms an adverb can have. Therefore it appears to have quite an uncertain status as a word class since the forms and functions depend on a given situation.

Quirk et al. identify three main groups of adverbs: simple adverbs, compound adverbs, and derivational adverbs (ibid.). Simple adverbs are not formed by adding an additional suffix and many of them „denote position and direction“ (ibid.). Typical examples are *near*, *here* or *back*. Compound adverbs combine at least two roots to form one adverb, e. g. *therefore*, *somewhere*, *whereupon*, or *hereby* (ibid.).

Morphologically speaking, *absolutely* fulfils all requirements for it to be classified as a member of the third distinctive group of adverbs: a derivational adverb. The majority of derivational adverbs feature a derivative suffix *-ly* indicating its word formation process. Using the derivative suffix, most derivational adverbs are created from adjectives, as well as their participle subtypes/forms, by adding a suffix *-ly* to an existing adjective (Dušková et al., 2012: 156). Examples of these derivational adverbs are *oddly*, *entirely*, *shyly*, *emphatically*, *truly* or *absolutely* (ibid., 156-7).

Besides the suffix *-ly*, other derivational suffixes can be used to form a derivational adverb: these are *-wise*, *-ward(s)*, *-fashion*, *-ways*, *-style*. All these cases demonstrate a derivational process of forming an adjective by using a noun (Dušková et al., 2012: 157-8).

<i>noun</i>	<i>derivational adverb</i>
<i>clock</i>	<i>clockwise</i>
<i>north</i>	<i>northward(s)</i>
<i>schoolboy</i>	<i>schoolboy-fashion</i>
<i>cowboy</i>	<i>cowboy-style</i>

Table 1: Examples of formation of derivational adverbs using nouns (Dušková et al., 2012: 160)

Due to the ability to form and create a variety of adverbs by the process of derivation, derivational adverbs are considered an open class of adverbs, allowing the formation of new adverbs by using other word classes (mostly adjectives and nouns).

In addition, Biber et al. (1999: 540) list the fourth group of adverbs labelled fixed phrases. These shall be „invariant in form, with the component words that rarely retain their independent meaning“ (ibid.). Examples of fixed phrases are *at last*, *of course*, and *kind of*.

2.2 *Absolutely* from the semantic point of view

2.2.1 The meaning of *absolutely*

Absolutely may perform a number of different meanings. *Cambridge Dictionary* defines this adverbial of degree as follows:

1. “completely; beyond any doubt.”

*I trusted him **absolutely**.*

*You must be **absolutely** silent, or the birds won't appear.*

*We've achieved **absolutely** nothing today.*

2. “used for adding force to a strong adjective that is not usually used with *very* or to a verb expressing strong emotion.”

*It's **absolutely** impossible to work with all this noise.*

*The food was **absolutely** delicious.*

*I **absolutely** loathe jazz.*

3. “showing emphasis in saying yes.”

*“It was an excellent film, though.” – “**Absolutely!**”¹*

Carretero (2010) points out that “the meaning of *absolutely* is defined utilising other adverbials expressing degree (*completely*, *perfectly*), lack of condition (*unconditionally*) or certainty (*that's right*, *certainly*, *definitely*, *unquestionably*). Some of these entries specify usage properties, such as the expression of strong emphasis or categorical denial” (Carretero 2010: 195). As an adverbial of degree, *absolutely* most commonly functions as an intensifier of meaning, allowing premodification of certain word classes (most frequently adjectives, nouns, pronouns and adverbs). It can also be used as a sentence modifier, or as a means of expressing a positive response on the brink of ellipsis (cf. 2.3).

¹ *Absolutely*; *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/absolutely>> 7 March 2019.

Moreover, the utterance which includes *absolutely* may have various forms of illocution – the common one being an expression of a reinforced opinion, a piece of advice, or an approval, notably when used in sentences involving modal, monotransitive and verbs, or copular be: *This case is **absolutely** full. My sister **absolutely** loves chocolate. You must be **absolutely** silent, or the birds won't appear. The need to transform thought into action **absolutely** required interaction with others.*²

2.3 Syntactic functions of adverbs

From the syntactic point of view, *absolutely* functions as an adverbial, more precisely as an adverbial of degree. Adverbials are defined as modifiers, i. e. clause elements that modify other clause elements. Adverbials mainly modify a verb (*drive carefully*), but also an adjective within a noun phrase (*a vaguely familiar face*; Dušková et al., 2012: 445), another adverb (*rather late*), a prepositional phrase (*somewhat at variance with our experience*; *ibid.*), a subordinate clause (*this is precisely what I mean*; *ibid.*), or the whole sentence (*Surprisingly, she kept us waiting*; *ibid.*). Adverbials can be realised by different phrases, such as adverb phrases (*speak frankly*; *ibid.*), noun phrases (*to go home*), or prepositional phrases (*go to work by car*; *ibid.*). In addition to subordinate clauses, they can be realised by non-finite clauses (infinitive, participle).

Quirk et al. (1985: 445) divide adverbs into two categories: modifiers and adverbials. Modifiers primarily occur in the premodifying position by adjectives and adverbs as in “*They are quite happily married*” (Quirk et al., 1985: 440). Postmodification, however, does not seem to be as frequent as premodification as in “*Nothing else happened.*” (*ibid.*, 454). On the contrary, adverbials are considered clause elements whose presence in a sentence is often optional (*Slowly they walked back home.*) (*ibid.*). Generally speaking, we can label an adverb functioning as a modifier whenever it precedes or follows any clause element, causing its meaning to be altered (*ibid.*, 445). Adverbs as clause elements may only have one of the two syntactic functions: clause element adverbials (*He quite forgot about it.*) or, more frequently, premodifiers of adjectives and adverbs (*They are quite happy.*). The latter is valid for *absolutely* as well, given its ability “to premodify mainly adjectives and verbs” (Quirk et al., 1985: 589).

Nonetheless, when we talk about the modifying function of adverbials, there seems to be a slight discrepancy in understanding the notion of this term. The difference is notable in the primary grammars we have chosen. When talking about targets of modification, Dušková et al.

² *Absolutely*; Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press, <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/absolutely>> 7 March 2019.

(2012) mention noun phrases only, thus verbs are not seen as modified elements, but rather clause elements co-occurring with adverbials (Dušková et al., 2012: 13.51). This discrepancy may be due to the comparison of English with Czech. A similar view is expressed by both Biber et al. (1999) and Quirk et al. (1985).

According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002), “adverbials of degree functioning as adjuncts are considered VP oriented adjuncts” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 576). In their understanding, it appears unusual to place VP oriented adjuncts in the front position, for they typically occur in central or final position and are not often prosodically detached. “Contrastively, clause-oriented adjuncts often occur in the front position and feature prosodic detachment” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 578). Therefore, a distinction between prosodically detached and non-detached occurrences of adverbials can be introduced (Carretero 2010: 201-202), the main difference being the non-detached occurrence features the adverbial in medial or final position (Carretero 2010: 202).

2.3.1 Intensifiers and their functions

Describing modifiers, Quirk et al. state the following: “Most commonly, the modifying adverb is a scaling device called an intensifier, which usually co-occurs with a gradable adjective. Intensifiers do not only refer to intensification; its goal is to state a point on an abstractly conceived intensity scale” (Quirk et al. 1985: 589). “Adverbs mostly realise the process of intensification by adverbs, occasionally also by noun phrases and prepositional phrases” (Quirk et al., 1985: 590).

“Intensifiers can be understood as a particular type of adjuncts whose function is to express the degree of intensity of some element. Intensifiers may intensify the meaning of adjectives and adverbs, and/or the meaning of verbs” (ibid.).

Intensifiers are described as a type of adverbs such as *very*, *really*, *so* which convey a degree of property on a scale. What is more, their flexibility and tendency for rapid development make them worth examining. Intensifiers do not only express degrees of property but also the need to indicate varying degrees of intensity.

When discussing intensifiers, two subsets can be distinguished: amplifiers (maximizers³ and boosters) and downtoners (subdivided into approximators, compromises, diminishers, minimizers). Both maximizers and approximators can be named and labelled totality modifiers. The role of amplifiers is to scale upwards from an assumed norm, taking into account the feature

³ Cf. 2.3.1.1 and 2.3.1.5.

of gradation (ibid.). Their subtypes are maximizers, elements denoting the upper extreme of the scale, and boosters that indicate a high point on the scale. Both subsets may form open classes, resulting in the replacement of old forms whose impact might eventually grow ineffectual. Most amplifiers are contrasted in alternative negation with *to some extent*. This feature allows testing for the inclusion in this class, contrasting it from emphasizees that do not meet this criterion.

He did not ignore my request *completely*, but he did ignore it *to some extent*.

The subclass of maximizers features a wide range of adverbials (*completely, entirely, fully, perfectly, thoroughly, totally, utterly*), including *absolutely*.

They *thoroughly* disapprove of his methods.

I must *absolutely* refuse to listen to your grumbling. (Quirk et al., 1985: 591)

According to Quirk et al., the difference between maximizers and boosters is not clear cut. “The main difference between maximizers and boosters is hard to observe, as no clear feature allowing the distinction exists (ibid.). When maximizers stand in the medial position, they often express a very high degree, whereas when they are in the end position, they are more like to convey their absolute meaning of extreme degree. The use of a maximizer for merely a high degree is especially great for attitudinal verbs such as *detest*” (ibid).

They *absolutely/utterly* detested him. They detested him *absolutely/utterly*.

They *violently* detested him. They detested him *violently* (ibid).

Contrastively, emphasizees add to the force of the adjective they premodify. According to Quirk et al., emphasizees “have a reinforcing effect on the truth value of the clause or part of the clause to which they apply. They do not require that the constituent concerned should be gradable. When the constituent is, however, emphasised, it is gradable, and the adverbial takes on the force of an intensifier” (Quirk et al. 1985: 583).

He *really* may have injured innocent people.

He may *really* have injured innocent people.

They *obviously* don't want it (ibid.).

Unlike intensifiers, emphasizees mainly co-occur with non-gradable adjectives, but the actual effect is often very similar to that of intensifiers.

Intensifiers/amplifiers possess a role of amplification and are thus concerned with asserting a generalised high degree, as opposed to the opposite process of diminution (ibid.).

Another aspect of intensifiers is their ability to be used for hyperbole. Depending on the context, “*absolutely* is a perfect example for expressing exaggeration and humorous effects” (Aijmer 2016: 83). Consider the following conversation:

A: *You are – good.*

B: *I'm going.*

A: *Go for it. You kidding? Thanks for the beer.*

B: *You're **absolutely** welcome, thanks for the ear.*

In this conversation, the assumed response to an act of saying “thank you” would probably be only *you're welcome*. However, the hyperbolic use of *absolutely* is employed in a context where it is quite unexpected, resulting in a comic valence. “Thus, creative uses of hyperbole are often exploited in order to entertain the audience, as well as to make them laugh” (Aijmer 2016: 83).

2.3.1.1 Scaling modifiers

Aijmer states that “*absolutely* is, in its traditional use, referred to as a maximizer operating on certain lexical elements to express degrees of increasing intensification upwards from an assumed norm” (Aijmer 2016: 79-80, Quirk et al. 1985: 445). Elements having the effect of intensifying adjectives or other words are also subjective, i. e. they mark the speaker’s attitudes, viewpoints and emotions. As a result, *absolutely* can lose its meaning as a degree-modifying adverb and be used from the speaker’s perspective to express the extent of his/her involvement with what is being said.

Huddleston and Pullum analyse *absolutely* from a slightly different point of view. They perceive it as an adverbial of degree, which furthermore gets subclassified as a peripheral modifier allowing scaling modification (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 437). Peripheral modifiers involve “those external modifiers occurring at the periphery of the NP, mainly in the initial position (before any predeterminer) but in a few cases in final position” (ibid.).

Scaling modifiers “have in common that they are permitted with only a restricted range of NPs where the sanctioning element typically has to do with some scalar property. All of them have analogues in the structure of DPs; they have some affinity with the category of degree adjuncts in clause structure but cover a rather broader range of semantic territory. Various subtypes can be recognised” (ibid.), such as reinforcement, approximation, or precision.

Based on this distinction, *absolutely* is understood as a reinforcement scaling modifier (alongside *altogether*, *entirely*, *fully*, *quite*, *much*, *by far*, and *easily*), as it “can modify even superlatives. They can also be found with such adjectives as *same* or *wrong*” (ibid.).

quite/absolutely the wrong job, entirely/absolutely the same conclusion

In contrast to approximation scaling modifiers (*almost, nearly, essentially, rather*), Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 437) understand reinforcement modifiers as a notable subgroup of scaling modifiers.

rather a good idea vs **absolutely a good idea* (ibid.)

The adverbial *absolutely* can also modify superlative phrases. In doing so, it precedes the determiner *the*, fulfilling the role of a pre-head dependent (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 1169):

- i. *It was **absolutely** the best performance I can recall.*
- ii. *She is **absolutely** the greatest.*

Among other pre-head dependents preceding the determiner *the*, we can find *almost, altogether, barely, by far, easily, entirely, fully, quite, or scarcely* (ibid.).

2.3.1.2 *Absolutely* as a primary intensifier

The adverbial *absolutely* has features that allow it to be classified as both an intensifier and an emphasizer, both terms being types of adverbials of degree (more precisely subjuncts as shown in Table 4⁴). However, from a linguistic point of view, it is neither considered nor classified as an emphasizer.

Absolutely is a typical intensifier which expresses a high degree of emotion on a scale. It can also modify the whole sentence by adding emphasis.

Semantically speaking, “the adverbial *absolutely* can be defined as an intensifier typically collocating with a set of extreme or superlative adjectives, expressing a maximally high degree of a property on a scale” (Aijmer 2016: 93). Moreover, it tends to be used for modification of the proposition rather than a single element. The whole proposition as the target of intensification presupposes discourse functions associated with emphasis and the strengthening of illocutionary force.

The adverbial may also be used as an independent item with a function pointing backwards in the context. The stand-alone marker performs functions in discourse such as responding to yes-no questions and speech acts such as requests or thanking.

⁴ Cf. 2.3.3.

2.3.1.3 Subgroups of degree adjuncts

Based on the classification of degree adjuncts, Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 721) understand *absolutely* as an adjunct of the maximal subgroup.⁵ Adjuncts, adverbials incorporated into the structure of a sentence, of this group “indicate a degree at the top end of the scale. For the most part, they do not permit intensification by a degree adverb (**very absolutely/utterly*). Most can indicate either completion of an accomplishment (i.), or extremely high degree of a gradable property (ii.)” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 721).

- i. *She finally eliminated the problem **absolutely**/altogether/completely/entirely.*
- ii. *I **absolutely**/fully/quite/thoroughly agree with you (ibid.).*

In the case of certain maximizers (subjuncts), as understood by Quirk et al., idiosyncratic restrictions have to be taken into consideration, especially by *completely* and *utterly*. By this, we mean a slight difference in the sense that allows degree modification:

**He utterly calculated her response. vs He utterly/absolutely miscalculated her response.*

**I completely/absolutely estimated his strength. vs I completely/absolutely overestimated his strength.*

“The maximal items can generally be positioned centrally or at the end of the clause, with the exception of *quite* that is limited to central position. In the end position, maximizers typically carry the stress, reinforcing their height on the scale of degree” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 722). This notion can be demonstrated on *absolutely*, especially on the following examples:

*I **absolutely** agree with you.* (central position, less stress involved)

*I agree with you **absolutely**.* (end position, stress carrier) (ibid.)

2.3.1.4 Prosodically detached adjuncts

Huddleston and Pullum perceive *absolutely* as a prosodically detached adjunct. Quirk et al. share their view, specifying the term introduced. According to Quirk et al., “the syntactic feature that non-detached *absolutely* shares with clause-oriented adjuncts is the one assigned to the category of subjunct” (Quirk et al., 1985: 504-505, 567). This is the justification of their treatment of *absolutely*, ultimately subclassified as a subjunct. “*Absolutely* cannot be focused using a cleft sentence or by other subjuncts such as *only*, nor can it be elicited by question forms. Thus, it may be concluded that non-detached *absolutely* is not a prototypical VG adjunct, but lies in between this category and that of clause-oriented adjuncts” (Carretero 2010: 202).

⁵ The maximal subgroup of degree adjuncts is more frequently labelled maximizers (Quirk et al. 1985). Cf. 2.3.1, 2.3.1.1.

In contrast to non-detached occurrences of *absolutely*, their “detached versions are considered supplements” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 577). Under this term, we understand “all constituents that are semantically related to a clause or a clausal constituent but prosodically detached from it, including prosodically detached adjuncts” (Carretero 2010: 202).

2.3.1.5 Modification and comparison of maximizers

Quirk et al. make an excellent point about the modification of maximizers as a distinctive subgroup of subjuncts. “Maximizers cannot be modified or compared for degree if they are interpreted as expressing the absolute extreme on a scale” (Quirk et al., 1985: 592). Modification cannot apply to prepositional phrases or to most adverbs that do not end in *-ly*. However, the rest of emphasers expresses variation in usage with the semantic class of verb as a further variable. On the one hand, maximizers such as *fully*, *thoroughly*, *totally* or *completely* allow premodification of the maximizers *how* and *however*, introducing a question or an exclamation. The following table summarizes the possibilities of modification and comparison of intensifiers in an English sentence. Its list features the most frequent intensifiers and their attitude towards further modification:

	<i>how</i>	<i>however</i>	<i>more than</i>	<i>very</i>
<i>fully</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>thoroughly</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>totally</i>	+	+	+	?
<i>completely</i>	+	+	+	?
<i>perfectly</i>	+	+	?	?
<i>entirely</i>	+	+	?	–
<i>utterly</i>	+	+	–	–
<i>extremely</i>	?	?	–	–
<i>absolutely</i>	–	–	–	–

Table 2: Modification and comparison of maximizers (Quirk et al., 1985: 592)

Given the data from Table 2, the following may be concluded: maximizers *fully* and *thoroughly* are used to denote a very high point on the scale, but only *absolutely* “is felt to be absolute, marking the absolute extreme of intensification and hence not susceptible itself of modification” (Quirk et al., 1985: 592). Therefore, the queries in table 3 indicate divided usage as far as its modification and comparison are concerned.

Discourse choices for degree adverbs as modifiers 565

Table 7.12 Distribution of most common amplifiers (immediately preceding adjectives) in BrE and AmE conversation and in academic prose; occurrences per million words
each • represents 50

	BrE CONV	AmE CONV	ACAD
very	••••••••••	••••••••••	••••••••••
so	••••••••••	••••••••••	•••••
really	••••••••	••••••••••	
too	•••••••	••••••••••	•••••
real	•	••••••••••	
completely	•	•	•
absolutely	••	•	
totally	•	••	
damn	•	•	
bloody	••		
extremely			••
highly			••
entirely			•
fully			•

Other amplifiers occurring c. 10 times per million words: *incredibly*, *perfectly*, *strongly*, *terribly*.

Table 3: Distribution of most common amplifiers in BrE and AmE conversation and in academic prose (Biber et al., 1999: 565)

2.3.1.6 Discourse choices for degree adverbs as modifiers

When modifying adjectives, “both speakers and writers have a variety of degree adverbs to choose from” (Biber et al., 1999: 564). In many cases, there is, however, little semantic difference between the degree adverbs. Therefore, many adverbs may be exchanged or substituted for another with insignificant, or even no change in meaning whatsoever (ibid.):

That’s completely different. It’s totally different.

Nevertheless, even for similar degree adverbs, there are preferences across various registers, as well as associations with different adjectives. According to BrE and AmE corpus findings, conversation uses a broader range of common amplifiers than academic prose. Although both

types of English feature a similar profile of frequency in a majority of degree adverbs, in some cases the frequency of use is more distinctive. As far as conversation is concerned, “amplifiers such as *so*, *totally*, *really* and *real* are more common in American English, whereas amplifiers *bloody* and *absolutely* are frequent, especially in British English. Moreover, conversation uses a range of informal amplifiers which are generally not used in academic prose” (Biber et al., 1999: 564). These forms include *damn*, *incredibly*, *terribly*. It is clear that various adjectives are modified by these amplifiers. The most common ones have to do with positive value judgements (*good*, *cool*, *nice*), though negative judgements (*awful*, *bad*, *stupid*) are also relatively common (ibid.).

In contrast to spoken language, academic prose makes more frequent use of the amplifiers *entirely*, *extremely*, *fully*, *highly*, as well as *strongly*. Most of these amplifiers are used to express the degree of intensity of a specific characteristic, such as newness, difficulty, development, complexity, and biphasicity. As far as academic prose is concerned, there are fewer collocations with the more general positive or negative value judgments which can be found in conversation (Biber et al., 1999: 565). Data from previous studies (Aijmer 2016, Carretero 2010, Pertejo and Martínez 2012) suggest that *absolutely* is not frequently found in academic work at all. Contrastively *absolutely* is considered an amplifier commonly found in the conversational discourse of both British and American English, being more frequent in British English.

2.3.2 Types of adverbials

From the syntactic point of view, two main subclasses of adverbials can be distinguished: adverbials integrated into the clause structure (adjuncts, subjuncts) and adverbials that are not incorporated into the clause structure (disjuncts and conjuncts), subdivided according to their functions respectively. Based on the criterion of integration within a clause, Quirk et al. (1985: 440) also distinguish four main types of adverbials mentioned in the previous section (cf. 2.3).

Biber et al., however, list only three classes of adverbials (Biber et al., 1999: 763-765): circumstance adverbials (adjuncts and subjuncts), stance adverbials (disjuncts), and linking adverbials corresponding to conjuncts. Similarly, Dušková et al. (2012: 445) also classify adjuncts and subjuncts as one type. The reason for merging these two types is their property of being integrated within the clause (ibid.).

2.3.2.1 Adjuncts and subjuncts

Both adjuncts and subjuncts are viewed as “relatively integrated within the structure of the clause” (ibid.), but they can be both optional and obligatory depending on the nature of the

clause pattern. Moreover, they both provide “circumstantial information about the proposition in the clause” (Biber et al., 1999: 762).

(adjunct) *He spoke to me about it briefly.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 440)

(subjunct) *We haven't yet finished. Would you kindly wait for me?* (ibid.)

2.3.2.2 Disjuncts

Disjuncts⁶ are always peripheral and therefore optional clause elements (ibid.). They “express an evaluation of what is being said either with respect to the form of the communication or to its meaning” (ibid.). Also, they are often identified “with the speaker’s authority for or comment on, the accompanying clause” (ibid.). *They are probably at home. She wisely didn't apologise.*

2.3.2.3 Conjuncts

Conjuncts are adverbials that “express the speaker’s assessment of the relation between two linguistic units” (ibid.). *If they open all the windows, then I'm leaving. I didn't invite her. She wouldn't have come, anyway.*

2.3.3 Absolutely and its syntactic functions

Being an adverbial of degree, *absolutely* is, alongside other adverbials of degree, “concerned with the assessment of gradable constituents in relation to an imaginary scale. Its primary focus deals with the subrole of amplification, which is concerned with asserting a generalised high degree” (Quirk et al., 1985: 485).

Thus, based on this fundamental distinction, it can be concluded that *absolutely* cannot function as a conjunct, for its qualities do not allow it to be disintegrated from the clause structure. Not primarily modifying a whole clause, nor having a clear linking function, the adverbial *absolutely* must be incorporated in a sentence and therefore primarily fulfilling the role of an adjunct. Moreover, a perfect example of the premodifier *absolutely* satisfies the conditions of being a clause element capable of modifying a plethora of word classes, as well as clauses. Depending on the syntactic context, “*absolutely* is distributed as a participant of the following scenarios: either as a modifier of lexical expressions, (i. e. adjectives, verbs, modal auxiliaries, nouns, pronouns and determiners), or a modifier of (parts of) clauses” (Carretero 2010: 194). In addition, the adverbial of degree *absolutely* may also function as a stand-alone marker, commonly found as an alternative for responses to yes/no questions (ibid.).

⁶ Also labelled stance adverbials by Biber et al. (1999: 763-765, 854).

The following examples demonstrate the most frequent uses of *absolutely*:⁷

- a) *He made his reasons for resigning **absolutely** clear.* (premodification of an adjective)
- b) *Are you **absolutely** sure?* (premodification of an adjective; copular verb)
- c) *This cake is **absolutely** delicious.* (premodification of an adjective; copular verb)
- d) *The burglars took **absolutely** everything.* (premodification of a pronoun; proform)
- e) *Jim knew **absolutely** nothing about it.* (premodification of a negative pronoun)
- f) *He has **absolutely** no experience of marketing.* (premodification of a determiner)
- g) *I must **absolutely** refuse to listen to your grumbling.* (Quirk et al., 1985: 591; intensification of a verb phrase containing an auxiliary verb)
- h) *(...) **absolutely** love that.* (Aijmer 2016: 84; premodification of a lexical verb)

Nevertheless, it is possible to label *absolutely* as a disjunct, for it is capable of conveying information about the attitude of the speaker towards the context of the sentence (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002). These occurrences are, however, infrequent.⁸ It may be considered a stance adverbial (disjunct), for it has the primary function of commenting on the content of style of a clause or a particular part of the clause (Biber et al., 1999: 853). *Absolutely*, as well as *generally*, *largely*, *mainly*, *typically*, *basically*, *essentially*, and *fundamentally* belong to the type of stance Biber et al. call limitation (Carretero 2010: 195) Adverbials of degree can be classified within the subtype of epistemic stance adverbials whose role is to express the speaker's judgment about the certainty, reliability, and limitations of the proposition (Biber et al., 1999: 854). Stance adverbials, also labelled disjuncts by Quirk et al., are considered subjective, as they express attitudes of the addresser towards what he/she is saying.

⁷ Examples a) to f) have been drawn from the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (<https://www.ldoceonline.com/>. Accessed: 2 April 2019) as typical instances of usage of the examined feature.

⁸ Unfortunately, Huddleston and Pullum (2002) do not provide examples of *absolutely* that would allow it to be clearly considered a disjunct. Their treatment of *absolutely* as a disjunct is rather theoretical and they list this function as a marginal, infrequent possibility.

Quirk et al. reject the idea of treating *absolutely* as a disjunct; on the contrary, they perceive it as a subjunct as “the term applies to adverbials, which have a subordinate role in comparison with other clause elements. The act justifies that they cannot usually be treated grammatically in any of the ways being applicable to adjuncts” (Quirk et al. 1985: 566). Accordingly, Quirk et al. understand *absolutely* as a narrow orientation subjunct, more specifically a maximizer (alongside *totally, completely, entirely, utterly*), a distinctive subgroup of amplifiers that belong under intensifiers (Quirk et al., 1985: 590).

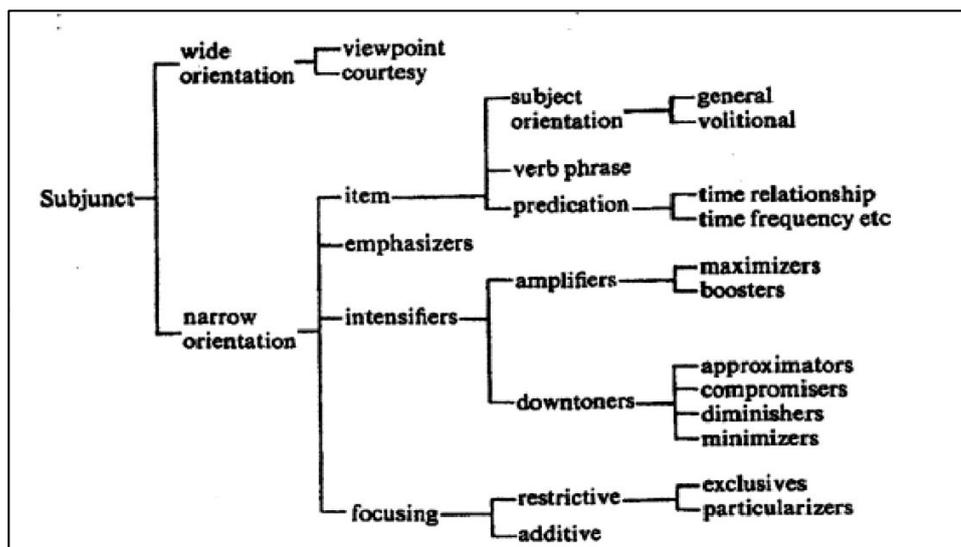


Table 4: Subjuncts and their sub-categories (Quirk et al., 1985: 567)

2.3.3.1 Modification of words

As stated above, *absolutely* can function as a modifier of different types of words, most notably adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, determiners, modal auxiliaries and nouns.

When modifying an adjective, *absolutely* signals “an extreme degree of a property on a scale” (Aijmer 2016: 83). The usual adjectives are often „associated with regard to physical looks of people (*beautiful, breath-taking*) or propensity (*ridiculous, insane*). Moreover, they often make assessments as to whether things are bad or good (*despicable, amazing*). On the other hand, *absolutely* also co-occurs with adjectives expressing either positive or negative connotations, such as *amazing* or *crazy*.”

The modification of verbs allows *absolutely* to express a degree of intensification or reinforcement (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 437). It is clear that *absolutely* puts on emphasis by modifying any verb, as in *I absolutely reject that suggestion* (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 721). „The verbs that admit this adverbial require some suggestion or even exaggeration in their predication“ (ibid.). In the case of modal auxiliaries that are commonly emphasised by *absolutely*, we find *must, will, would* and *have to*. *We just don't want to be apart for any longer*

than we **absolutely** have to. (Aijmer 2016: 86) “*Absolutely* is usually found with verbs signalling an extreme quality; on the other hand, it is possible to use this adverbial in sentences closely associated with the illocutionary force” (ibid.). Such examples include verbs *understand*, *think* or *take*. *I should absolutely take it, and I would be crazy not to* (ibid.).

When associated with nouns, *absolutely* is typically labelled as an adverbial of degree; however, according to Aijmer, it may also carry out the role of a concessive meaning (Aijmer 2016: 86):

A: *Can you stop acting like this is horrible news for me?*

B: *It's a huge surprise, absolutely a surprise, but this is not something I need to be lied about.* (ibid.)

In this example, “*absolutely* emphasises that something is a surprise” (ibid.). However, the following clause is concessive (*but*), therefore “it claims the opposite of what has been said in the first clause“ (ibid.), resulting in a concessive meaning.

Absolutely permits modification of pronouns and determiners as well. However, this modification is associated primarily with negative contexts (Aijmer 2016: 87). A perfect example of this modification is *absolutely nothing*, indicating a rather conventional way of exaggerating. Another typical example is the combination of *absolutely* with a negative determiner, such as *no*.

I have absolutely no idea what you are talking about (ibid.).

Moreover, “*absolutely* is quite flexible when it comes to its position. It may be followed by a verb phrase, as the adverbial emphasises the strength of the illocutionary act. Alternatively, *absolutely* can be found in clause-initial position, indicating the modification of the whole clause (disjunct).⁹ With a negative context, the adverbial expresses refusal to do something” (Aijmer 2016: 88).

I am not giving this – absolutely; I am not gonna give this baby up (ibid.).

In addition, *absolutely* should be contrasted with other adverbs denoting completeness, such as *partially* or *totally* which may be considered its (near-)synonyms. “Adverbs denoting degrees of completeness such as *fully*, *totally*, *completely*, *marginally*, and *partially* can modify the

⁹ Aijmer states that *absolutely* may function as a disjunct “if found in clause-initial position”. This classification is, however, disputable and the grammars we are consulting understand this issue differently. Quirk et al. do not see *absolutely* functioning as a disjunct, they classify it best as a subjunct. On the other hand, Huddleston et Pullum (2002) do not hesitate to label *absolutely* a disjunct if modifying a whole sentence. Biber et al. understand *absolutely* as a stance adverbial (disjunct), too.

sufficiency quantifiers *enough* and *sufficient*. *Fully* can also modify numerals, while *absolutely* occurs with universal *all* and *very* and negative *no*” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002: 432).

Absolutely all his friends had deserted him (ibid.).

2.3.3.2 Modification of (parts of) minor clauses¹⁰

In addition to the ability to modify clausal constituents, *absolutely* can also function as a modifier of some parts of minor clauses, yet of the whole clause (Carretero 2010: 203, 213).

A: *A man pulled the trigger on his gun and shot him.*

B: *Yes absolutely.* (Carretero 2010: 203)

In doing so, the adverbial remains integrated into the proposition, as it correlates with discourse strategies and an increase of subjectivity (ibid., 199). “The occurrences of *absolutely* will be associated with discourse functions involving an enhancement of assertiveness. These discourse functions will be similar to those of adverbials of certainty“ (ibid.). Being marginal in the written language *absolutely* must be, therefore, “remarkably more common in spoken discourse” (ibid.).

A: *Don't you want to spend every second of every day with her?*

B: *I do. Absolutely I do* (ibid.).

The adverbial *absolutely* is always used emphatically, i. e. in an utterance as a means of intensification, reinforcing its meaning. The qualities of emphatic use can be demonstrated by the following example:

A: *And of course, she accepted?*

B: *Oh, she had to. Absolutely.* (Aijmer 2016: 88)

2.3.3.3 *Absolutely* as a stand-alone marker

We have already discussed the role of *absolutely* in the form of an amplifier. However, this particular adverbial is also quite regularly found as a stand-alone marker with the function to respond to yes-no questions, as well as to speech acts such as requests and thanking (Aijmer 2016: 78). This feature of stand-alone adverbials/adverbs is characteristic for conversations, where certain adverbs are unconnected to other elements in a clause. They can even serve as

¹⁰Carretero, as well as Aijmer, distinguish one function of *absolutely* as “modification of (parts of) minor clauses” (Carretero 2010: 203, 213, 215-216) and “modification of the whole clause” (Aijmer 2016: 87-89) The conception and nature of examples mentioned in this section suggest that their understanding of *absolutely* overlaps with the concept of a disjunct, because in the examples provided by both Carretero and Aijmer, the adverbial may be generally regarded as a sentence modifier.

complete utterances. In some cases, the adverbs are related by ellipsis to previous utterances (Biber et al., 2002: 207.).

In the case of *absolutely*, it functions as a stand-alone marker, as the following example demonstrates:

A: *Remember when you taught me how to use this?*

B: ***Absolutely***. (Aijmer 2016: 78-79)

When *absolutely* stands alone, it loses its intensifying or degree-modifying meaning, and it thus associated with discourse functions only (Aijmer 2016: 89). It shall, as a result, as considered a mere response item used by a speaker as a reaction in a positive way to the preceding utterance (McCarthy 2003: 36). It can be argued that response items and intensifiers have one trait in common – they are both subject to fashion (Peters 1994, Tagliamonte and Roberts 2005: 281). Arguably, *absolutely* is regarded as a frequent response marker because of its connotation, considering more than solely the speaker's attitude and emotion. According to Aijmer's study, *absolutely* can perform a variety of discourse functions, indicated in table 4.

Absolutely as an independent, stand-alone marker loses its intensifying meaning. In contrast, it tends to develop functions that are normally found by and characteristic for epistemic adverbs. Both Aijmer and Tao claim that *absolutely* is commonly compared with its near synonyms completely and entirely, but at the same time other lexical items near it, such as *definitely* and *certainly*, are neglected, if not completely ignored (Tao 2007: 26). The intensifier *absolutely* develops discourse-organizing functions such as agreement, emphasis on an affirmative response to a question, response to thanking and apologising, as well as the organisation of the closing of the conversation (Aijmer 2016: 93).

When making a response, the most common function of a stand-alone *absolutely* is the expression of agreement (Aijmer 2016: 90). This use is demonstrated in the following example:

A: *This is...the last marriage...that leads straight to happily ever after. Right?*

B: ***Absolutely*** (ibid.).

This very adverbial can be, nevertheless, used for responding positively to an information question, highlighting the emphatic and enthusiastic positive answer to yes-no question (Aijmer 2016: 90):

A: *Does she have Jesse's long, dark eyelashes?*

B: *Oh, yes. Absolutely.*

As demonstrated in the previous example, the nature of the stand-alone *absolutely* allows the combination with other (in)formal discourse markers, such as *oh, right, yeah, yes, no*, as well as *of course* (Aijmer 2016: 90). The use of *oh absolutely* obviously tends to express more emphasis than the simple *absolutely* (Aijmer 2016: 90).

A: *Can you please just give us a minute?*

B: *Oh, **absolutely**. Of course* (ibid.).

The co-occurrence validates the reinforcement of the positive response. Moreover, the use of vocatives happens to be quite frequent in informal speeches, in association with the use of *absolutely* as a clear response to a *yes-no question*.

When used to express disagreement or rejection, speakers commonly use *absolutely not/absolutely no way*. These forms happen to signal rejection as a preceding request and to disagree with the hearer (Aijmer 2016: 91).

A: *I can still do that.*

B: ***Absolutely not**. It's the least I can do after inviting myself along* (ibid.).

Unlike other maximizers such as *definitely* or *certainly*, *absolutely* can constitute the response part in thanking exchange at the end of a conversation. (Aijmer 2016: 91) This is illustrated in:

A: *Thank you for letting me talk to you about it. It really helps.*

B: ***Absolutely**. Sorry we have to run* (ibid.).

The act of thanking can be part of a ritual exchange where the interactants make preparations to leave the conversational floor (Aijmer 2016: 91). *Absolutely* can thus be regarded as a response to thanking, as well as a closing signal.

A: *Thank you for your time.*

B: *Okay. No, **absolutely**. It was my pleasure, seriously* (Aijmer 2016: 92).

The adverbial *absolutely* can, however, be also regarded as a part of the farewell ritual at the end of the conversation (Aijmer 2016: 92), stating confirmation.

A: *Well, I have things to do, but, Erica, we will be in touch.*

B: ***Absolutely**. I am looking forward to it.*

2.3.4 Previous research

2.3.4.1 Adjective intensifiers

Table 5 summarizes the most common intensifiers functioning as adjective modifiers. Focusing on spoken language and the language of teenage speakers, the data was collected using various

corpora, among which we find DCPSE, COLT and SCoSE. The results presented in Table 5 show that the maximizer *absolutely* remains a relatively common adjective modifier in adult speech, with 161 occurrences (an equivalent of 5.6% of occurrences) drawn from the total of 2,840 sample uses, following notoriously known and used *very*, *so*, and *really*.

Interestingly, by teenagers, the use of *absolutely* modifying the adjective does not seem to be used in speech as much as by the previous group, having a frequency of 27 occurrences of 2,499 samples in total. It may be concluded that by teenagers, this very use of *absolutely* does not measure up with its equivalents, notably *so*, *really*, *very*, and *fucking* being the most popular ones. The SCoSE corpus does not even feature the frequency of *absolutely* fulfilling the role of an adjective modifier. This inconvenience is most likely to be caused by the size of the corpus itself, featuring a mere volume of 12,000 words, thus not a relevant indicator for demonstrating the usage of intensifiers as such.

ADJECTIVE INTENSIFIER	DCPSE sample/ adults (425,519 words)	%	Freq. per 10,000 words	COLT/ teenagers (431,528 words)	%	Freq. per 10,000 words	SCoSE/ teenagers (12,000 words)	%	Freq. per 10,000 words
<i>very</i>	1,661	58.5	39	406	16.1	9.4	8	11.9	6.6
<i>absolutely</i>	161	5.6	3.78	27	1.08	0.6	-	-	-
<i>well</i>	3	0.1	0.07	25	1	0.5	1	1.5	0.8
<i>completely</i>	49	1.8	1.1	31	1.24	0.7	-	-	-
<i>totally</i>	35	1.2	0.82	21	0.84	0.5	-	-	-
<i>extremely</i>	43	1.5	1	12	0.6	0.3	-	-	-
<i>enough</i>	-	-	-	8	0.48	0.2	-	-	-
<i>really</i>	199	7.1	4.6	574	22.8	13.3	28	41.9	23.3
<i>so</i>	514	18.1	12	606	24.4	14	16	23.8	13.3
<i>pretty</i>	97	3.4	2.2	74	2.96	1.7	8	11.9	6.6
<i>right</i>	-	-	-	15	0.6	0.3	-	-	-
<i>dead</i>	3	0.1	0.07	3	0.12	0.07	-	-	-
<i>fucking</i>	66	2.3	1.5	412	16.48	9.5	5	7.5	0.04
<i>bloody</i>	9	0.3	0.2	285	11.3	6.6	1	1.5	0.008
TOTAL	2,840	100	66.34	2,499	100	57.67	67	100	50.64

The use of the intensifiers *absolutely* and *totally* in the language of British adults and teenagers 219

Table 5: Adjective intensifiers in DCPSE, COLT and SCoSE (Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 219)

2.3.4.2 Adjective collocations

Tables 6 shows the most frequent adjectival collocations with the intensifier *absolutely* according to data retrieved from the DCPSE and COLT corpora. The analysis of the obtained data clarifies that among the adjectives forming collocations the most frequently we can find *right*, *certain*, *lovely*, *splendid*, *sure*, as well as *wonderful*. All adjectives except for *terrifying*

have a positive connotation, suggesting that *absolutely* behaves as an intensifier expressing a quality of something extraordinary, generally expressing exaggeration. This conclusion is supported by another study whose results are presented in Table 7. The table contains mainly adjectives with positive connotations, a few of which can be found in both oral and written language (*right, essential*). Among other expressions, we name *fine, honest, clear, sure, perfect, certain, or true*. When used to premodify an adjective of negative meaning, *absolutely* appears to be linked with *ridiculous* and *terrible*.

On the other hand, among teenagers, we find adjectives such as *knackered, pasted, or rocky*. Collocations with these adjectives can be described as expressing a negative feature or quality (*very tired, very drunk, difficult or uncertain*). Therefore, the COLT data suggest that teenagers tend to use this intensifier, mostly with negative connotations.

224 Paloma Núñez Pertejo and Ignacio M. Palacios Martínez	
Table 4. Most frequent adjectival collocations with <i>absolutely</i> in DCPSE	
	DCPSE sample/adults (425,519 words)
<i>right</i>	7
<i>certain</i>	4
<i>lovely</i>	4
<i>splendid</i>	4
<i>sure</i>	4
<i>wonderful</i>	4
<i>clear</i>	3
<i>marvellous</i>	3
<i>super</i>	3
<i>terrifying</i>	3
<i>true</i>	3
Table 5. Most frequent adjectival collocations with <i>absolutely</i> in COLT	
	COLT/teenagers (431,528 words)
<i>knackered</i>	3
<i>pasted</i>	2
<i>rocky</i>	2

Table 6: Most frequent adjectival collocations with *absolutely* in DCPSE and in COLT (Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 224)

Other studies suggest there is a difference in usage of *absolutely* as an intensifier in speech. In both adult and teenager speeches, *absolutely* is most frequently used as an adjective modifier. Besides the modification of adjectives, other word classes seem to be modified by both groups to a similar degree. Interestingly, *absolutely* is more used as a response token by adults. The difference may be caused by idiolect, suggesting this very adverbial falters and ceases to be

used, with other potential intensifiers emerging and coming into the spotlight. Also, *absolutely* as a verb modifier seems to be used more by teenagers. The same tendency is spotted in the modification of nouns. Conclusively, the range of occurrences shows that adults tend to use *absolutely* more frequently in their speech.

2.3.4.3 Syntactic functions and distribution

Tables 7 and 8 summarise the syntactic functions and distribution of the intensifier *absolutely* in relation to the nature of corpora previous researches had used, respectively (DCPSE and COLT, BNC):

222 Paloma Núñez Pertejo and Ignacio M. Palacios Martínez

Table 3. Syntactic distribution of *absolutely* in DCPSE and COLT

	DCPSE sample/adults (425,519 words)	%	COLT/teenagers (431,528 words)	%
adjective modifier	161	56.5	27	44.3
response token	41	14.4	3	4.91
verb modifier	18	6.31	7	11.47
pronoun modifier	15	5.26	5	8.2
determiner modifier	12	4.21	3	4.91
preposition modifier	12	4.21	1	1.63
noun modifier	5	1.75	6	9.83
other	14	4.91	5	8.2
unclear	7	2.45	4	6.55
Total	285	100	61	100

Table 7: Syntactic distribution of *absolutely* in DCPSE and COLT (Pertejo and Martínez, 2012: 222)

SUPERIOR CONSTITUENT	BNC spoken component		BNC written component	
	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%
Modifier of words				
Adjectives	139	55.60	158	63.20
Adverbs	1	0.40	3	1.20
Pronouns	16	6.40	20	8.00
Prepositions	0	0.00	9	3.60
Determiners	25	10.00	23	9.20
Modal auxiliaries	1	0.40	6	2.40
Nouns	3	1.20	1	0.40
Clausal constituent				
VG-oriented	12	4.80	23	9.20
Clause-oriented	3	1.20	0	0.00
Independent				
(Parts of) minor clauses	50	20.00	7	2.80
TOTAL	250	100.00	250	100.00

Table 8: Distribution of the syntactic functions of *absolutely* in the analysed BNC data (Carretero 2010: 204).

As demonstrated in Table 8, over 50% of occurrences feature *absolutely* as an adjective modifier (55.60% in spoken language, 63.20% in written language), followed by modification of determiners and pronouns in both written and spoken parts, respectively. The main differences may be seen when it comes to the modification of prepositions (no record in spoken language, only 3.60% in written sources), modal auxiliaries (one record in spoken language, six occurrences in written language) and nouns (three occurrences in spoken language, one record in written language). VG-oriented clausal constituents appear more common in written language (9.20% compared to 4.80% in spoken language), whereas clause-oriented constituents do not occur in written language. When functioning as a response to (parts of) minor clauses, its discourse functions differ according to the type of speech. It can be concluded that spoken language uses *absolutely* mostly to express agreement about opinion/information, or to comment on something emphatically, creating an affirmative response. However, installing a negative response is also possible. It is also clear that *absolutely* is used more often in spoken language, with almost seven times as many occurrences as in written documents.

3. MATERIAL AND METHOD

3.1 Material

In order to analyse the syntactic functions of the adverbial *absolutely*, as well as its Czech translation counterparts, the following procedure has been followed. Using the parallel corpus *Intercorp*, accessed via *Kontext*, a subcorpus comprising of 150 examples (concordance lines) of usage of *absolutely* had been created, indicating a sample of current usage of the studied phenomenon. In order to collect data documenting current usage of this adverbial of degree, restricted queries had been made using the *KonText* interface, resulting in a formation of a subcorpus containing 150 examples of the use of *absolutely* in the European Parliament speeches. Correspondingly, as a result, the presented analysis evinces the use of *absolutely* in the spoken register, indicating an in-depth analysis of the syntactic functions in formal speech. The criterion of authenticity, meaning an example of usage pronounced by a native English speaker, had to be ruled out resulting in an omission due to the insufficient amount of occurrences of the examined feature in the corpus restricted to native speaker usage. Likewise, the primary syntactic distribution of *absolutely*, could not have been checked in its entirety (cf. chapter 2.3) due to the nature of data which treats *absolutely* only in its capacity to modify words.

Besides working with *InterCorp*, another tool of the *Czech National Corpus* has been made use of, namely *Treq* which provided data indicating the most common Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely* within all occurrences in the *InterCorp* texts. Corpus-based data signalling the distribution of possible Czech counterparts of *absolutely* had been collected using this interface prior to the actual analysis of the data in the corpora in order to account for the expected tendencies for translation into the Czech language.

3.2 Method

The analytical part of this paper shall deal with two tasks: firstly, its main goal is to verify the distribution of syntactic and pragmatic functions of the adverbial of degree *absolutely*. Secondly, the objective of this paper is to analyse Czech translation counterparts of the featured adverbial, with regard to its syntactic and pragmatic functions. It takes into account its various usage as well as the issue of translation into Czech, which may supposedly allow for a multitude of translation counterparts, generally regarded as synonyms. Conclusions are presented in the latter part of this paper following the analysis itself.

Based on the theoretical background and the information acquired, we shall verify our hypothesis: ultimately, we do not believe that there is a universal expression in Czech that would be generally used in order to express the English counterpart *absolutely*. In contrast, there appears to be a plethora of expressions fitting in the general meaning of the English adverbial of degree, similarly to English. The nature and meaning of *absolutely* make the adverb synonymous with expressions such as *totally*, *entirely*, *completely* and others. The same trait is valid for its Czech translation counterparts, with the calque *absolutně* on the same level as *zcela*, *naprosto*, or *úplně*. We estimate that other word classes can function as substitutions for the English adverb, notably adjectives in the case of *naprostý* (English counterpart *absolute*).

4. ANALYSIS

4.1 *Absolutely* as a modifier of words

As already discussed, the adverbial of degree *absolutely* primarily fulfils the function of an intensifying modifier. The word classes that appear to be most susceptible to be modified by the intensifier *absolutely* are, in decreasing order, adjectives, verbs, pronouns, determiners and nouns (cf. 2.3.4.3). Moreover, their discourse functions vary and fulfil four main tasks (cf. 2.3): “agreement about information/opinion, agreement to perform an action, emphatic affirmative response, and finally emphatic negative response” (Carretero 2010: 215).

Data obtained from the parallel corpus *InterCorp* indicating speeches uttered in the European Parliament emphasise oral usage of this adverbial of degree in spoken English. These presuppositions were taken into consideration when the collected data provided by the parallel corpus *InterCorp* and its interface *KonText* had been under scrutiny.

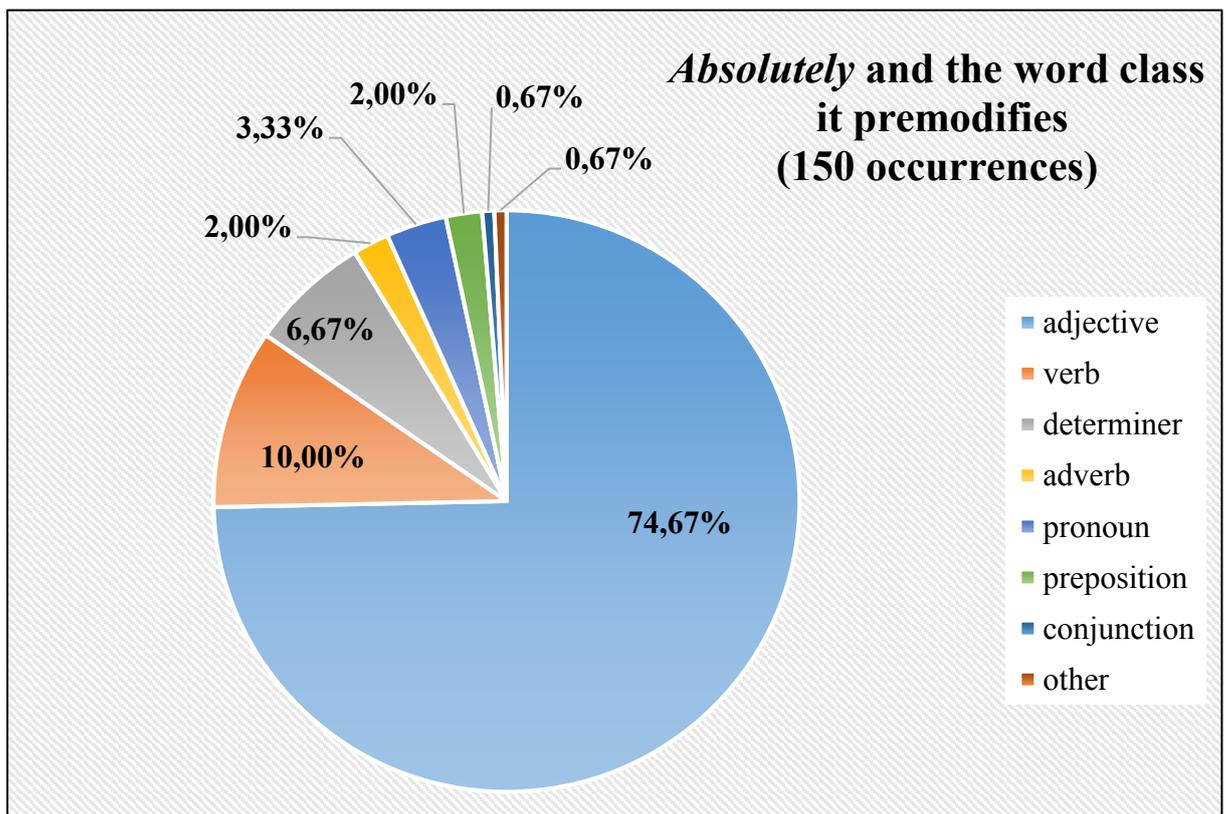


Figure 1: *Absolutely* and the word class it premodifies (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

Data presented in Figure 1 support the findings summarised in the theoretical part of this paper (cf. 2.3). As expected, an overwhelming majority of the data feature the intensifier *absolutely* performing premodification (148 out of 150 occurrences, equivalent of 98.66%), therefore being incorporated into the clause, performing the syntactic role of an adjunct. The remaining case performs the syntactic role of a sentence modifier, however in this case not modifying a

given word class as opposed to the rest of the cases. Overall, this result is likely to be obtained primarily owing to the specified context (spoken language, official speeches), as well as on account of the preferred syntactic function of the adverbial *absolutely* – principally an adjunct.

Looking more closely at the distribution of the examples in which *absolutely* premodifies another word, we find that *absolutely* tends to modify word classes classified as open (adjectives, lexical verbs, adverbs), as well as those considered close (pronouns, determiners, auxiliary verbs, prepositions, conjunctions). These findings lead to a presumption that *absolutely*, as an intensifier, is capable of premodifying most of the word classes, be it open ones (e. g. adjectives, adverbs, nouns) or closed ones (pronouns, determiners and others).

Contrastively, the order presented in the previous research has not been matched in our findings entirely. On the one hand, the first two cases susceptible to intensification by this adverbial of degree coincide (adjectives and verbs), on the other hand in the case of pronouns, intensification of *absolutely* has not proved to be equally frequent, being overtaken by both determiners and adverbs, but the figures happen to be fairly close. This outcome may be due to the nature of the data we have worked with, primarily restricted to spoken language.

4.1.1 Modification of adjectives

Adjectives premodified by *absolutely* are represented by 112 out of 150 occurrences in total, representing nearly three-fourths of the data sample (74.67%). The results indicate that the use of *absolutely* as a premodifier of this word class is linked with the speaker's intention to express an urgent need for action, possibly leading towards noticeable change, or expressing one's opinion, possibly bordering on advice or approval. The nature of the premodified adjectives is associated with formal spoken discourse – a formal speech given at an official international European institution (the European Parliament). The data drawn from our corpus show the uneven distribution among adjectives associated with positive/neutral, as well as negative connotations, nevertheless the corpus proves the former category to be more frequent (94 occurrences as opposed to 18 excerpts indicating negative prosody). Semantically speaking, it may, therefore, be concluded that *absolutely* tends to premodify adjectives generally linked with positive and neutral meaning. Among those adjectives whose visible role is to emphasise the importance of a given situation or state, we name *essential*, *necessary*, *clear*, *vital*, *crucial*, *right*, *correct*, *sure* and *fundamental*. All of the selected adjectives happen to be used more than once among the sample of a total of 150 occurrences, with *essential* (18 occurrences) and *necessary* (12 occurrences) being the ones speakers of the EP tend to use the most. The use of

absolutely as an adjectival modifier is illustrated by the following figure, listing all premodified adjectives according to the nature of their prosody (positive, neutral, negative), respectively:

<i>Absolutely</i> as an adjectival modifier (112 occurrences)	
adjective	number of occurrences
Positive and neutral prosody	
<i>essential</i>	18
<i>necessary</i>	12
<i>clear</i>	10
<i>right</i>	10
<i>crucial</i>	8
<i>vital</i>	8
<i>correct</i>	5
<i>certain</i>	2
<i>fair</i>	2
<i>fantastic</i>	2
<i>fundamental</i>	2
<i>sure</i>	2
<i>accepted, achievable, appropriate, delighted, decisive, different, exemplary, guaranteed, magnificent, normal, paramount, united, good and proper</i>	1 occurrence each
subtotal:	94 (83.93%)
Negative prosody	
<i>unacceptable</i>	3
<i>catastrophic, deplorable, disgraceful, farcical, incredible, inextricable, intolerable, prohibited, ridiculous, scandalous, shocking, tragic, unseemly, unreal, undeniable</i>	1 occurrence each
subtotal:	18 (16.07%)
total:	112 (100.00%)

Figure 2: *Absolutely* as an adjectival modifier (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

The speaker's intention to stress the meaning of the utterance leads to the use of *absolutely* as an intensifier. The effort to highlight a given message is demonstrated by the following examples, drawn from our corpus:

- (1) *Laws should only be adopted where **absolutely** necessary.* (proper opinion/advice; A4)
- (2) *The 25% reduction is **absolutely** achievable.* (proper opinion/approval; A6)
- (3) *My fellow Members are **absolutely** correct to say that.* (proper opinion/approval; A7)
- (4) *It is **absolutely** clear that...* (statement based on subjectively viewed evidence, proper opinion; A9)
- (5) *I believe it is **absolutely** crucial...* (statement based on subjectively viewed evidence, proper opinion; A12).

Among the less frequent use, we highlight adjectives *undeniable*, *paramount* and *decisive*:

- (6) *I believe I cannot end this speech without touching on two subjects which I believe are **absolutely** decisive for the future of the Union* (proper opinion; A11).
- (7) *Safety must be **absolutely** paramount.* (advice; A91).
- (8) *It is based on this **absolutely** undeniable finding that we must build a relationship which is course mutually beneficial.* (proper opinion; A107)

Taking the percentage distribution into account, the aspect of negative prosody proves to be rather marginal as far as adjectival premodification by *absolutely* is concerned, with only 18 occurrences out of 112 in total. Whereas most of the adjectives premodified by *absolutely* happen to be put in a positive context, certain negative context occurrences are quite frequent as well, e. g. of *unacceptable* (3 occurrences). Despite being less recurrent, adjectives associated with negative meaning are not uncommon and make a substantial part of the list of adjectives being premodified by *absolutely* (*ridiculous*, *scandalous*, *shocking*, *catastrophic*, *farcical*, *unreal*). In the case of *ridiculous*, the use corresponds with the data shown in Table 7. Similarly to the previous group associated with a positive connotation, adjectives with *absolutely* appear to carry out the same amount of illocutionary force, namely the appeal to the assembly in order to change a situation viewed as mediocre.

- (9) *I find it **absolutely** shocking that...* (A42)
- (10) *This is **absolutely** ridiculous.* (A43)
- (11) *This is **absolutely** unacceptable.* (A52)
- (12) *I think the proposal put forward in the report is **absolutely** unacceptable.* (A113)
- (13) *What is happening in present-day Iran is **absolutely** unacceptable.* (A116)

(14) *We are organizing a brain drain from the poor countries, which is **absolutely** scandalous.* (A66)

(15) *Jordan has more than a million refugees – an **absolutely** catastrophic macroeconomic impact.* (A98)

(16) *The way it is being discussed here is **absolutely** unreal.* (A126)

Generally speaking, the sample proved the hypothesis right in a sense that the illocution being made by an EP speaker shall be emphasised to a considerable extent so that the receiver/audience would feel an urge to reconsider and eventually deal with a given issue. We feel it is the case of negative connotation as presented in the examples selected (*absolutely unreal/catastrophic/unacceptable/scandalous/ridiculous/shocking*), whose goal is, of course, to utter an exaggerated or even overexaggerated statement, on the other hand, a statement the speaker considers meaningful and worth uttering.

4.1.2 Modification of verb phrases

The analysis of the data obtained from the *InterCorp* has shown that the modification of verbs is the second most frequent way of this premodification. *Absolutely* allows not only modification of lexical verbs, but also auxiliaries as the sample shows. Moreover, the modification of auxiliaries appears more common than intensifying the meaning of lexical verbs as the following figure demonstrates:

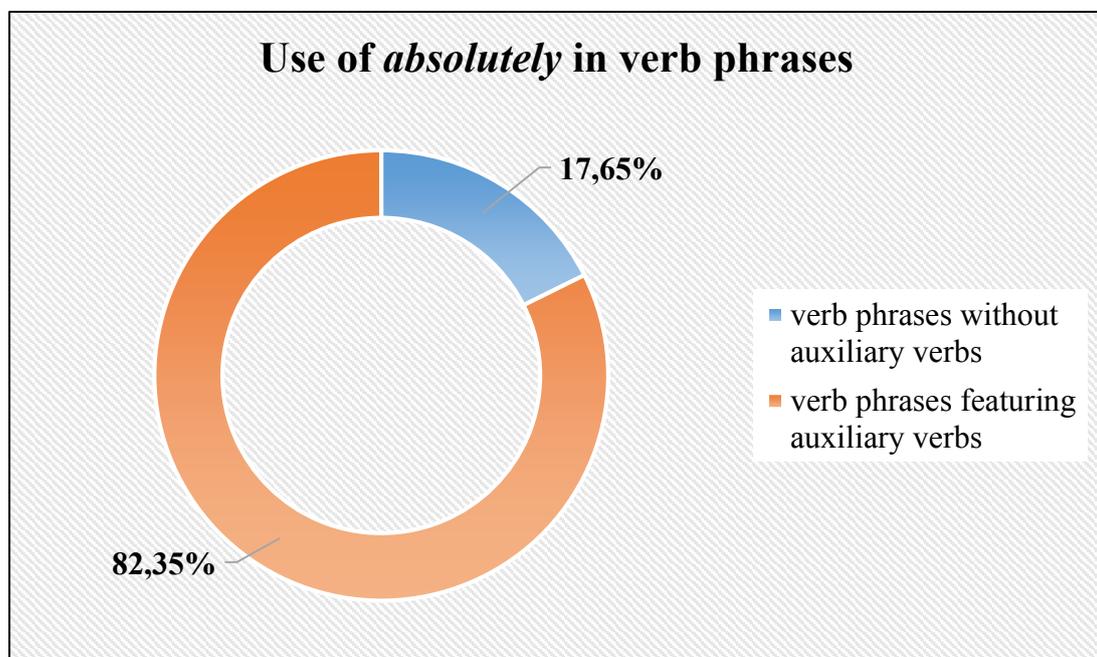


Figure 3: Distribution of *absolutely* in verb phrases

(parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

The ratio based on the data we work with thus indicates that the use of *absolutely* as an intensifier of auxiliaries is surprisingly frequent. Our sample features 17 occurrences of *absolutely* being incorporated within verb phrases, 14 of which contain an auxiliary (an equivalent of 82.35%). The most common auxiliaries featured in our list are emphatic *do*, *must*, *cannot*, *should* and *have to* (cf. 4.1.2.2). The use is demonstrated by the following examples, drawn from the appendix:

4.1.2.1 Lexical and copular verbs

As discussed in Figure 3, lexical verbs do not seem to be intensified by *absolutely* as frequently as auxiliaries and copular verbs. However, notable examples of use have been collected, indicating once again the need of a speaker to express themselves adequately. *Absolutely* comes before the verb as expected in the case of premodification. Our chosen representatives of lexical and copular verbs' premodification feature the copular verb *be*, and a lexical verb *reject*. The position of *absolutely*, however, differs, following a grammatical role concerning the position of an adverbial in the case of the former (19), with the expected order by the latter (17, 18).

(17) *I absolutely reject one particular theory which exists in the EU.* (A140)

The use in example 17 refers to the speaker's intention to show emphasis on the meaning of the verb itself, meaning the speaker is completely or entirely against the given theory. Similar conclusions can be drawn in example 18:

(18) *I agree absolutely that this is not just for our economic progress but also because this will deliver social progress.* (modification of a lexical verb; A128)

(19) *I am absolutely not a lobbyist.* (copular verb; A88)

4.1.2.2 Auxiliary verbs

The use of *absolutely* as a verb modifier appears to be non-limited, given all the possible ways of reinforcement the intensifier may guarantee. The intensifier is used right before an auxiliary verb not only with subjects referring to human beings or distinct groups (21, 24) but also tends to be used with a subject referring to inanimate entities, bodies or institutions (23, 25). Moreover, *absolutely* gets frequently used with existential constructions (20), as well as in subordinate clauses, namely in non-defining relative clauses (26).

Our selected examples feature a relevant aspect of modality worth examining. Example 26 features the central modal verb *should* whose meaning is intrinsic, indicating an obligation or a necessity. Examples featuring *must* (20, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30) all represent modal verbs expressing necessity or obligation, therefore classified as with intrinsic modality as well. Likewise,

example 21 features another central modal verb *can/cannot* expressing permission, thus intrinsic modality. All of these examples of modal verbs issued are premodified by *absolutely* whose clear function is to emphasise the actual utterance, making the illocution rock-solid. The use of *absolutely* in the case of semi-modal verbs is illustrated on *have to* in example 25, this one being of intrinsic modality as well, mainly due to the obligation of expressing necessity once again. Therefore, it may be concluded that the intrinsic use of modal verbs appears to be associated with intensification by adverbs of degree.

- (20) *There **absolutely** must be equal conditions for cabotage and compliance with social and environmental standards.* (necessity, obligation – intrinsic modality; A76)
- (21) *That gives commercial interests priority over the environment and we **absolutely** cannot allow that.* (permission – intrinsic modality; A87)
- (22) *The European budget **absolutely** must continue to help those fighting the scourges afflicting European society.* (obligation, necessity – intrinsic modality; A96)
- (23) *The EU **absolutely** must pursue the policy begun in 2005.* (obligation, necessity – intrinsic modality; A136)
- (24) *We **absolutely** must guarantee safety.* (necessity, obligation – intrinsic modality; A144)
- (25) *This is all very well, but all rolling stock **absolutely** has to be in decent condition.* (necessity – intrinsic modality; A146)
- (26) *We have seen one very clear example with a very important project to do with European contract law, which **absolutely** should be discussed and discussed politically.* (recommendation/obligation/necessity – intrinsic modality; A5)
- (27) *Actions that I **absolutely** do support are moves to reduce to a minimum the permitted blood alcohol levels...*
(the use of emphatic *do* to highlight the nature of the utterance; *absolutely* modifies the verb *support*, therefore an example of double emphasis; A18)
- (28) *First and foremost, I **absolutely** do not agree with increasing the aid in cases of partial restructuring to the level of full restructuring aid.*
(*absolutely* intensifying the meaning already form-wise indicated by no contraction; A39)
- (29) *We must **absolutely** leave aside the fact that in Italy, we probably campaign in different coalitions.* (A118)
- (30) *European legislation must **absolutely** take into account and support their requests to prevent their slow but inexorable disappearance from the market.* (A95)

4.1.3 Modification of determiners

The following examples illustrate the use of *absolutely* when premodifying a determiner. It is significant that the use of an intensifier occurs mainly with negative determiners (31, 32, 33) where the speaker attempts to put emphasis on the negative quality associated with the situation being expressed by the noun (*absolutely no knowledge at all*, *absolutely no question*, *absolutely no knowledge of these sorts whatsoever*). Moreover, the negative meaning of the determiner premodified by *absolutely* gets often even more intensified by adding another intensifier emphasising the idea being expressed, *whatsoever* and *at all*, placed at the end of the sentence.

(31) *Decisions are being made here today by people with absolutely no knowledge of international finance at all.* (A20)

(32) *We have people from Poland, the Czech Republic and Latvia who have absolutely no knowledge of these sorts of things whatsoever.* (A21)

(33) *There is absolutely no question of acting through imposition and paternalism.* (A24)

(34) *The ending of set-aside is absolutely the right course of action for us to pursue.* (A53)

Contrary to the negative meaning, *absolutely* can also be in charge of premodifying determiners such as definite or indefinite articles (34).

4.1.4 Modification of other word classes

The research has also shown other word classes undergoing premodification by *absolutely*. Examples 35 and 36 illustrate the adverbial of degree premodifying a prepositional phrase (*this principle absolutely in the light of the values, to be valuable and absolutely to the point*). Example 37 clarifies the function of the intensifier premodifying another adverb.

(35) *The EU must defend this principle absolutely in the light of the historical, cultural and moral values by which it is guided.* (A26)

(36) *Please allow me to thank both of the rapporteurs for their work, which has been valuable and absolutely to the point.* (A49)

(37) *What I can say absolutely unequivocally is that Croatia has a solid European prospect.* (A60)

4.2 Absolutely as a sentence modifier

The data collected feature mainly examples of premodification of various word classes by the intensifier *absolutely*. Nevertheless, the following two examples indicate the modification of a whole sentence, therefore performing the syntactic function as a disjunct:

(38) *Directive 1999/70/EC precluded the application of national legislation which, in the public sector alone, prohibits absolutely the conversion into an employment contract of*

indefinite duration of a succession of fixed-term contracts. (attitudinal disjunct; degree of truth; A16)¹¹

(39) *We have seen one very clear example with a very important project to do with European contract law, which **absolutely** should be discussed and discussed politically.* (attitudinal disjunct; degree of truth; A5)

4.3 Analysis of Czech translation counterparts

4.3.1 *Absolutely* and a selection of its Czech counterparts

Figure 4 summarizes the data obtained from the *Translation Equivalents Database* provided by the *Czech National Corpus*. With no further restrictions to the query, the database, working in reliance to the *InterCorp* corpora, assesses a plethora of possible Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely* as recorded in the *KonText* interface.

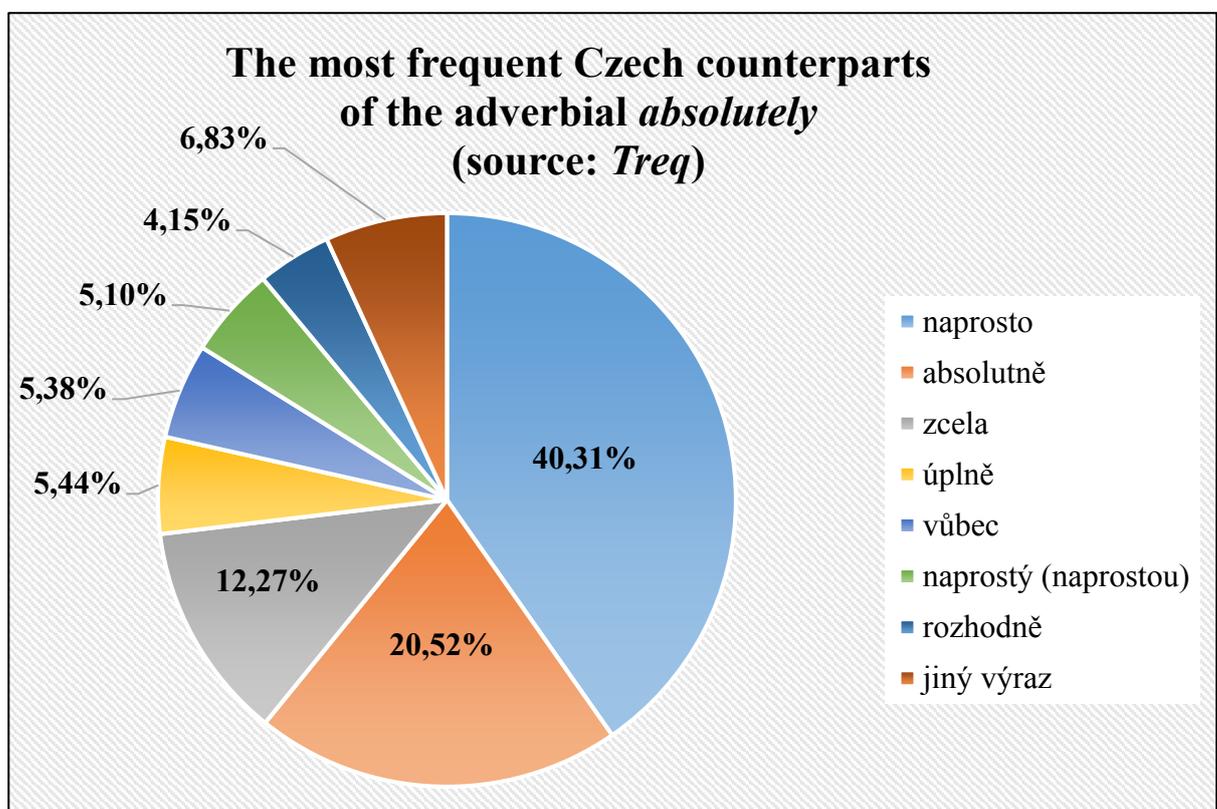


Figure 4: *Absolutely* and a selection of its most frequent Czech counterparts (*Treq*)

As suggested in the previous paragraph, data indicated by *Treq* show there is not one specific term in Czech that allows universal coverage of the English *absolutely*. The nature of the Czech translational counterparts presented in this figure leads to the conclusion that the use in Czech

¹¹ The nature of *absolutely* in example 39 happens to be ambiguous, therefore it is disputable whether the intensifier truly modifies the whole sentence and shall be labelled attitudinal disjunct. Another interpretation of *absolutely* in this example allows it to be considered a word modifier, since it follows the lexical verb *prohibit*. If considered an adjunct, the intensification applies to the preceding verb, not the whole sentence, respectively.

must surely be diverse. However, as shown in Figure 4, corpora allowing parallel line-up and viewing of concordance lines in both English and Czech detect the Czech adverb *naprosto* to be the most frequent equivalent, with more than 40% of occurrences in general. *Naprosto* is then followed by other significant Czech adverbs, among which we name *absolutně* with 20.52% of uses, despite its rather strange-sounding nature. *Zcela* follows and is considered the third most common equivalent of *absolutely*, with 12.27% of occurrences, directly followed by *úplně*, *vůbec*, *naprostý* and *rozhodně*. The four expressions seem to be viewed as relatively synonymous, all having up to 5.4% of occurrences in the corpora. Interestingly enough, *naprostý* makes the list of the most frequent Czech counterparts, despite being an adjective.

As already stated, the meaning of *absolutely* is on the hand unequivocal in English (“*completely, beyond any doubt; used for adding force to a strong adjective that is not usually used with “very” or to a verb expressing strong emotion; used as a strong way of saying “yes”*”)¹², on the other hand it may pose a problem for translation into Czech, since its meaning may feel to be rather general, with the direct Czech calque being *maladroit* and unnatural. We have stated in our hypothesis that we do not believe that there is a universal expression in Czech that would be generally used in order to express the English counterpart *absolutely*. As already shown in Figure 4, there is a plethora of Czech adverbs, as well as adjectives, that *Treq* considers representative enough for the language itself to be making use of it.

4.3.2 General observations

In contrast to data presented in Figure 4, which summarised the absolute frequency of Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely* as occurring in *InterCorp*, our limited research containing 150 occurrences examples of usage in the European Parliament speeches happens to be more diversified than perhaps initially expected. Despite the given figures indicating rather clear tendencies as far as the data from *Treq* is concerned, the analysis of our chosen sample may be more varied due to the restricted nature of usage, which is treated in this paper.

¹² *Absolutely*; *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press, <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/absolutely>> 7 March 2019.

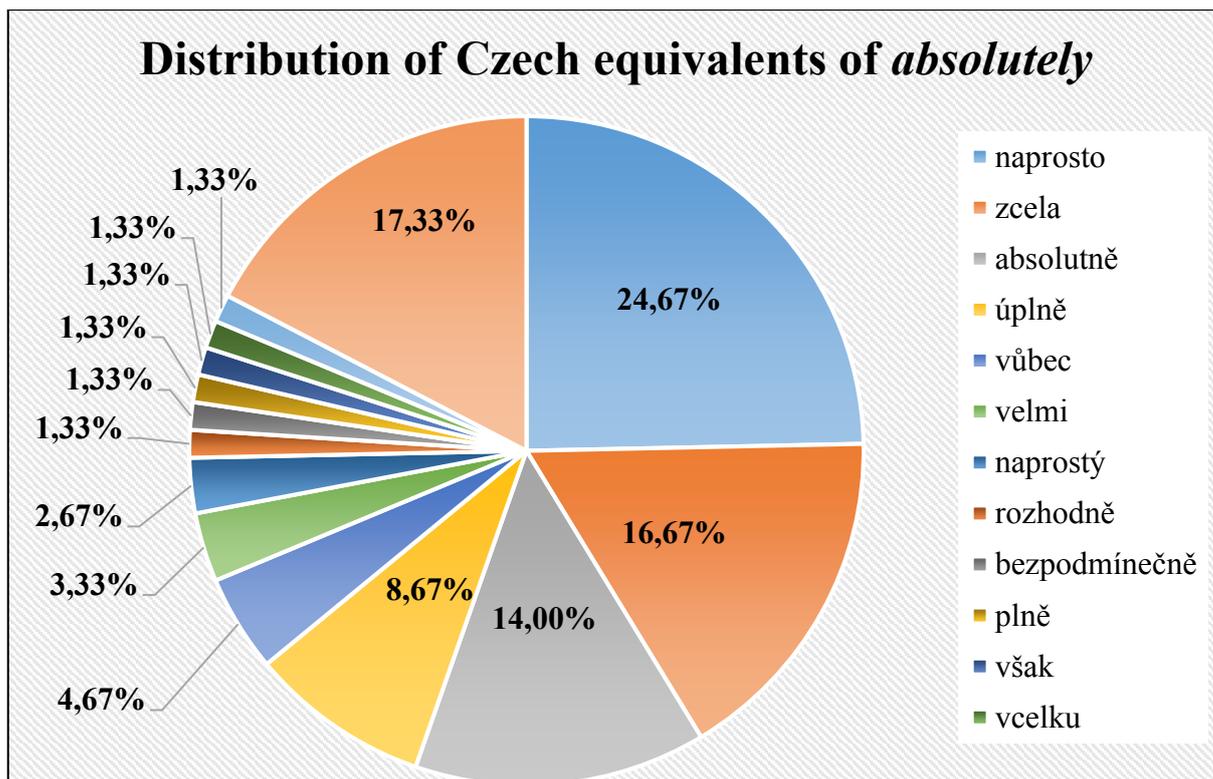


Figure 5: Distribution of Czech equivalents of *absolutely*; analysis of the appendix (parallel corpus *InterCorp*; interface: *KonText*)

When comparing the non-specific diagram (Figure 4) and the one presented above, the following conclusions can be inferred: first, it can be stated that there is a tendency for certain expressions to be used more than others. Both diagrams contain four Czech adverbs that are likely to be preferred by Czechs to be used as translation counterparts. These four adverbs are *absolutně*, *naprosto*, *úplně* and *zcela*. There are various ways of translating these into English; however, the meaning always remains the same: *absolutely*, *completely*, *entirely*, *fully*, *totally*. These four are favoured in terms of frequency; however, there is a slight difference in their position, as well as their share.

A certain tendency appears to be used by Czech speakers when translating *absolutely* into their mother tongue. This assumption applies especially to *naprosto*, which topped both figures and is thus considered the most common Czech equivalent of the English adverb *absolutely*. In our research, *naprosto* was used in the Czech translation in roughly one-fifth of all cases (37 occurrences, or an equivalent of 24.67%). On top of that, this Czech counterpart also proves to be the most used counterpart of *absolutely* in the case of adjectival premodification (cf. 4.3.3) and happens to be used very often in the case of premodification of pronouns (cf. 4.3.6).

In both diagrams, *naprosto* is followed by *absolutně*, and *zcela*, however different results are obtained depending on the data we scrutinise. In the case of *Treq* (Figure 4), *absolutně* can be

found in the second place (roughly 21%), with *zcela* occupying the third position (around 12% of occurrences). Interestingly though, these two counterparts of *absolutely* have switched places in the restricted EP research, with *zcela* overtaking *absolutně* (roughly 17% to 14% of occurrences). In both diagrams, *úplně* then follows, securing the fourth most common way to translate *absolutely* into Czech (6% in Figure 4; roughly 9% in the research).

The research has therefore proven that there is not a single universal counterpart of *absolutely* in the Czech language that can be generally used in order to express the English adverbial of degree in Czech. Nevertheless, we are sure to mention that the counterpart a Czech speaker eventually chooses is selected due to their idiolect and preferences. Although *naprosto*, *úplně*, and *zcela* are all adverbs, their use in Czech is more or less considered synonymous, referring to the meaning of *totally* or *absolutely*. From both the pragmatic and stylistic point of view, we infer, however, that the use of *absolutně* in such sentences perhaps does not measure up with its more common equivalents for its qualities. Certain speakers of Czech may not find it as natural sounding as other possible options including *naprosto*, *úplně*, and *zcela*, which feel to be much more natural sounding.

4.3.3 Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of adjectival premodification

Figure 6 features recurrent Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely* when the adverbial of degree premodifies an adjective phrase. A sample representing a total of 112 occurrences in our list of 150 examples of usage follows the trend mentioned in 4.3.2. *Naprosto* comes out to be

the most common Czech counterpart with 34 uses, followed by *absolutně* (17 uses), which is tied with *zcela*. *Úplně* completes the top four expressions with 12 uses overall:

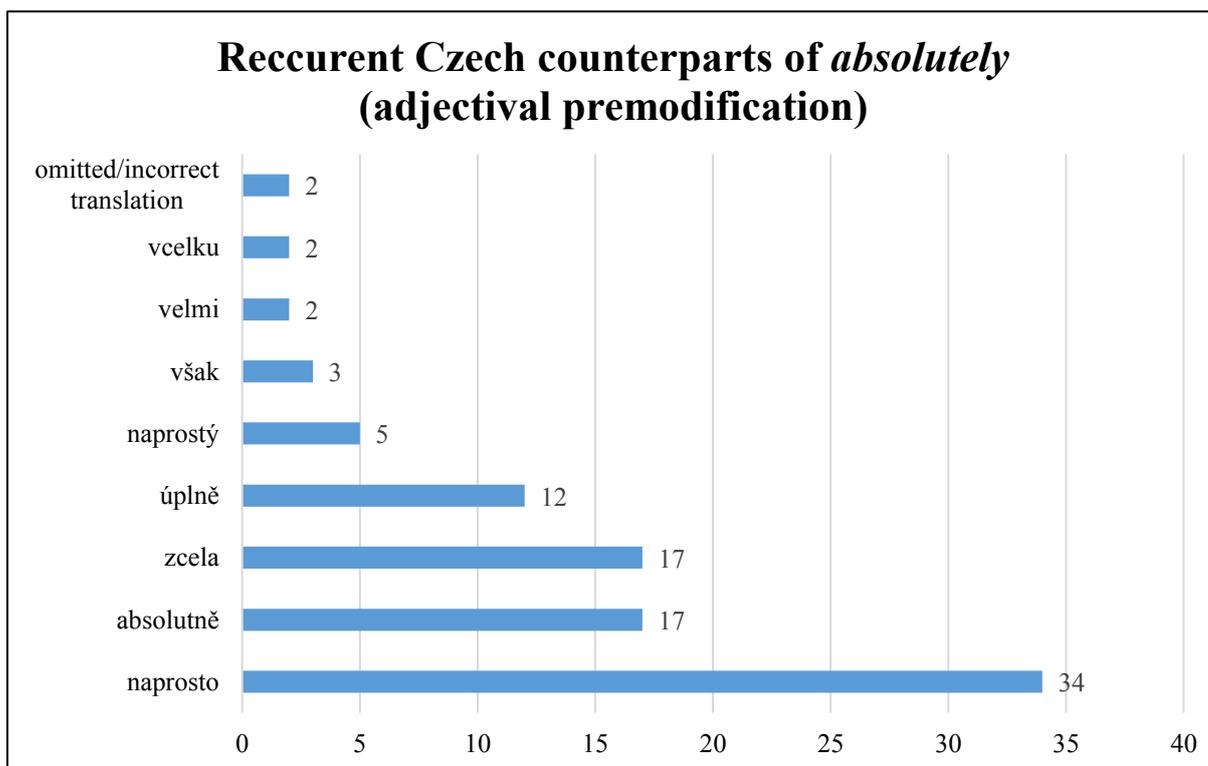


Figure 6: Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of adjectival premodification

The following concordance lines from *InterCorp* demonstrate the use:

occurrence	English	Czech
<i>Naprosto</i>		
(40) A1	<i>In Italy, on the other hand, a series of absolutely unseemly reactions ensued.</i>	<i>V Itálii naopak vyvolaly řadu naprosto nevhodných reakcí.</i>
(41) A8	<i>As Mr Toubon said, it is absolutely right to issue a strong call to all of us and particularly to the Commission.</i>	<i>Jak pan Toubon řekl, je naprosto správné vyslat silný signál nám všem, a především Komisi.</i>
(42) A10	<i>It is absolutely essential that the establishment remains a shipyard and that it forms part of the</i>	<i>Je naprosto nezbytné, aby loděnice zůstaly zachovány a byly nadále součástí loďářského průmyslu.</i>

	<i>shipbuilding industry and no other.</i>	
(43) A34	<i>I can understand that but I find it absolutely intolerable for the President of this Chamber to have to defend himself in person against such an unreasonable and inappropriate attack.</i>	<i>Dokáži to pochopit, ale pokládám za naprosto nepřijatelné, aby se předseda této komory musel osobně hájit proti tak nepřiměřenému a nevhodnému útoku.</i>
Absolutně		
(44) A4	<i>I would like to underline the principle yet again: laws should only be adopted where absolutely necessary.</i>	<i>Rád bych znovu zdůraznil zásadu: zákony se mají přijímat jedině tehdy, pokud je to absolutně nevyhnutelné.</i>
(45) A19	<i>We know that enforcement work is absolutely fundamental.</i>	<i>Uvědomujeme si, že činnost vynucování práva je absolutně základní.</i>
(46) A91	<i>Safety must be absolutely paramount.</i>	<i>Bezpečnost musí být absolutně prvořadá.</i>
(47) A126	<i>The way it is being discussed here is absolutely unreal.</i>	<i>Způsob, jakým tu o ní diskutujeme, je absolutně neskutečný.</i>
Zcela		
(48) A112	<i>The question of food provision has now become absolutely crucial.</i>	<i>Otázka zabezpečení potravin se nyní stala zcela klíčovou.</i>
(49) A113	<i>For these reasons, I think the proposal put forward in the report is absolutely unacceptable.</i>	<i>Z těchto důvodů si myslím, že návrh předložený v této zprávě je zcela nepřijatelný.</i>
(50) A129	<i>I am convinced that the clauses that we have approved are absolutely necessary.</i>	<i>Jsem přesvědčen, že ustanovení, která jsme schválili, jsou zcela potřebná.</i>

(51) A130	<i>We know that a new international treaty is absolutely crucial.</i>	<i>Víme, že nová mezinárodní smlouva je zcela zásadní.</i>
Úplně		
(52) A25	<i>It is absolutely essential that we criticise countries that believe themselves to be democracies.</i>	<i>Je úplně zásadní, abychom kritizovali země, které si myslí, že jsou demokratické.</i>
(53) A30	<i>We need to remain absolutely united with a clear set of rules.</i>	<i>Musíme zůstat úplně jednotní a mít jasný soubor pravidel.</i>
(54) A62	<i>These people cannot be people who lead absolutely normal lives.</i>	<i>Tito lidé nemohou vést úplně normální život.</i>
(55) A69	<i>I must also stress that in the case of Greece an increase in the number of seats provided for, from 22 to 23, would be absolutely fair.</i>	<i>Musím také zdůraznit, že v případě Řecka by bylo navrhované zvýšení křesel z 22 na 23 úplně spravedlivé.</i>
Naprostý		
(56) A7	<i>Mr President, my fellow Members are absolutely correct to say that...</i>	<i>Vážený pane předsedající, mí kolegové mají naprostou pravdu, tvrdí-li, že...</i>
(57) A45	<i>This is absolutely right.</i>	<i>Je to naprostá pravda.</i>
(58) A47	<i>It seems to be that Mr Saryusz-Wolski is absolutely right in that we must...</i>	<i>Mám pocit, že pan Saryusz-Wolski má naprostou pravdu, že musíme...</i>
(59) A125	<i>I think you are absolutely correct in underlining the need to have information about the procedure.</i>	<i>Myslím, že máte naprostou pravdu, když zdůrazňujete nezbytnost disponovat informací o postupu.</i>
(60) A138	<i>You are absolutely right, Mr Markov.</i>	<i>Máte naprostou pravdu, pane Markove.</i>

Figure 7: Recurrent Czech counterparts of *absolutely* (corpus overview)

In the case of the modification of adjectives, we would like to highlight common traits that keep reoccurring: firstly, most adjectives being premodified by *absolutely* are gradable, allowing either inflectional or analytical gradation (*essential, united, normal, fair*). On the other hand, adjectives such as *unreal* or *right* already possess the feature of full degree, therefore are considered non-gradable. Secondly, an overwhelming majority of the adjectives featured in the corpus make part of copular verbs. Moreover, it should be noted that most of these occurrences include *anticipatory it* functioning as a subject of the sentence. Example 54 then features *absolutely* as a part of a subordinate clause.

Moreover, the factor of prosody steps in which leads to the assumption that the Czech translation equivalent is linked to the nature of prosody that is presented. In total, an overwhelming majority of the examples feature neutral prosody, more-or-less typical for a formal speech. However, there are instances featuring negative connotations as well, mostly represented by *naprosto, absolutně, and zcela* (cf. 4.4).

In two cases, *absolutely* was omitted in the translation, being substituted by another Czech adjective which cannot be considered a precise Czech translation equivalent. However, in our understanding, the Czech translator has not made an error translating it, for the original structure of the sentence may seem challenging. The meaning shift of the utterance has been, from our point of view, avoided in each case:

(61) ...*that identity is **absolutely vital** for us to clear up.* – ...*je **nevyhnutelné** je poznat, abychom mohli dát všechno do pořádku.* (A22)

(62) *This paper is **absolutely necessary** as, currently, 16 Member States impose a tax at 16 different levels.* – *Tento dokument je **nevyhnutelný**, neboť nyní 16 členských států ukládá daň se 16 různými sazbami.* (A31)

Noticeably, *absolutely* is translated by a Czech adjective in five cases (*naprostý*, a translation counterpart of *absolute*). These cases feature an adjective associated with a positive connotation (*right, correct*), syntactically functioning as subject complements and forming the S-V-Cs clause pattern. The reason for using an adjective instead of an adverb in the translation is linked to the established Czech collocations (*to be right/correct – mít pravdu/*být správný/*být pravdivý*). Regarding the nature of Czech grammar rules, the Czech adjective *naprostý* can be used as an intensifier, for it precedes a noun (*to be right/correct – mít pravdu* vs *to be absolutely right/correct – mít naprostou pravdu*).

4.3.4 Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of verbal intensification and sentence modifiers

Figure 8 summarises Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely* performing premodification of verbs phrases. In this category, we have decided to work with all types of predicates, including copular verbs. Based on the data drawn from our subcorpus, it may be stated that there is a plethora of possible Czech counterparts the translator and/or interpreter has decided to use in the Czech language. However, the Czech expression *zcela* occupies the top rank with five occurrences.

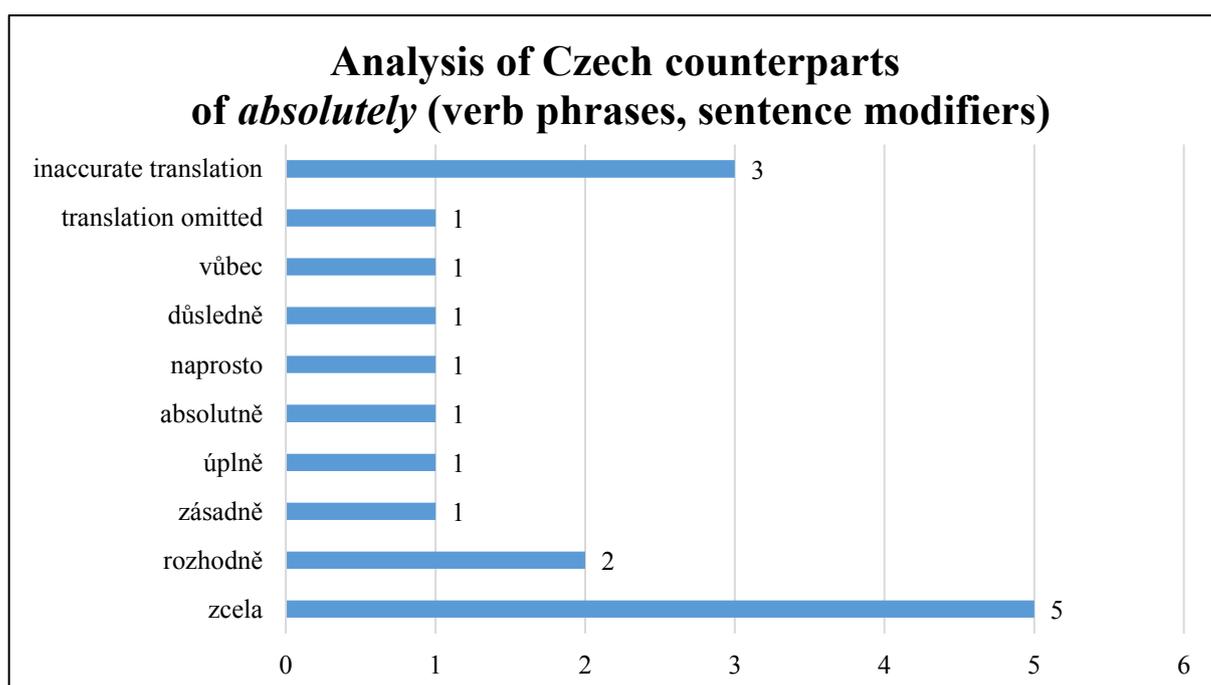


Figure 8: Czech counterparts of *absolutely*: verb phrases

Zcela:

(63) ...that it is **absolutely** prohibited to convert fixed-term employment contracts into contracts of indefinite duration in the Greek public sector.

...že je v řeckém veřejném sektoru **zcela** zakázáno převádět pracovní smlouvy na dobu určitou na smlouvy na dobu neurčitou. (A15)

(64) Actions that I **absolutely** do support are moves to reduce to a minimum the permitted blood alcohol levels not just for young drivers, but also for persons working in public transport.

Akce, které **zcela** podporuji, jsou akce na snížení minimálního povoleného obsahu alkoholu v krvi nejen u mladých řidičů, ale i u řidičů veřejné dopravy. (A18)

(65) We must **absolutely** leave aside the fact that in Italy, we probably campaign in different coalitions.

Musíme **zcela** ponechat stranou skutečnost, že v Itálii jsme každý v jiné koalici. (A118)

(66) *We **absolutely** must guarantee safety.*
Zcela bezpodmínečně musíme zajistit bezpečnost. (A144)

(67) *This is all very well, but all rolling stock **absolutely** has to be in decent condition.*
To všechno je v pořádku, ale je zcela nezbytné, aby veškerá kolejová vozidla byla v přijatelném stavu. (A146)

Rozhodně:

(68) *...with European contract law, which **absolutely** should be discussed and discussed politically.*
*...evropského smluvního práva, jenž by se měl **rozhodně** politicky projednat. (A5)*

(69) *The EU **absolutely** must pursue the policy begun in 2005.*
*EU musí **rozhodně** pokračovat v politice, kterou započala počátkem roku 2005. (A136)*

Four instances of verbal modification by *absolutely* give us imprecise data: first, the translation of *absolutely* into Czech is omitted in one case, whereas three records are showing imprecise translation. In the case of the latter, the translator may not have tried to search for the direct translation equivalent, but rather to translate the content of the utterance so that it does not feel disturbing for the addressee. Thus we do not consider the translation to be incorrect, but the translation equivalent of *absolutely* cannot be considered applicable in the following excerpts:

(70) *That gives commercial interests priority over the environment and we **absolutely** cannot allow that. – Tím upřednostňuje komerční zájmy před životním prostředím, což v žádném případě nesmíme dovolit. (A87)*

(71) *The European budget **absolutely** must continue to help those fighting the scourges afflicting European society. – Evropský rozpočet musí i nadále pomáhat těm, kdo bojují s pohromami sužujícími evropskou společnost. (A96)*

(72) *It should **absolutely** not be done any more in their companies. – K něčemu podobnému by už v jejich společnostech nemělo docházet. (A100)*

4.3.5 Czech counterparts of *absolutely* (premodification of determiners)

The data obtained from the *KonText* interface also show *absolutely* performing premodification of determiners. Ten available occurrences in our subcorpus show its five different Czech equivalents: *vůbec* occupying the top rank and thus being the most common equivalent (5 occurrences), *úplně* functioning as an intensifier in two cases, with *zcela*, *absolutně*, and *bez jakýchkoli* featured in one example each.

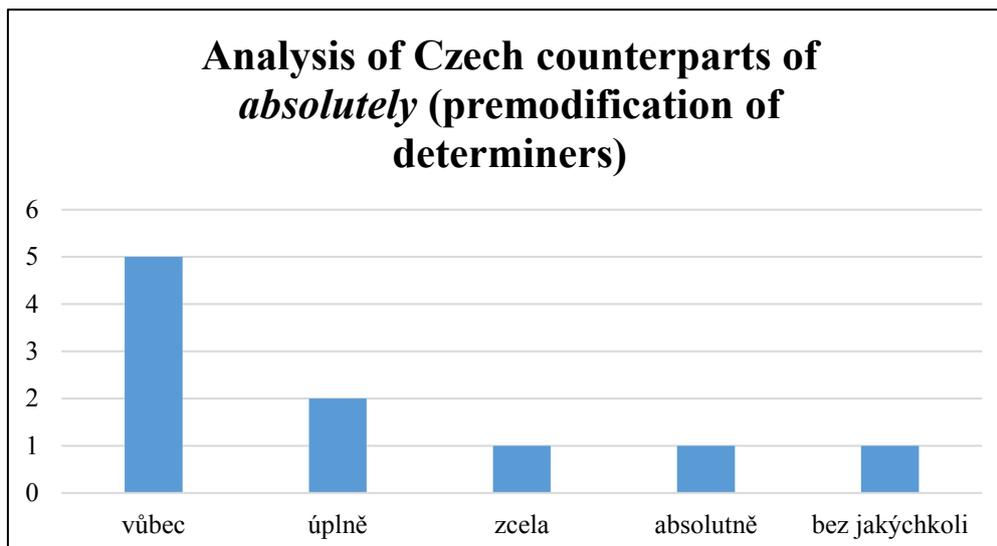


Figure 9: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of premodification of determiners

(73) *Decisions are being made here today by people with **absolutely no** knowledge of international finance at all.*

*Dnes činí rozhodnutí lidé **bez jakýchkoli** poznatků o mezinárodních financích. (A20)*

(74) *We have people from Poland, the Czech Republic and Latvia who have **absolutely no** knowledge of these sorts of things whatsoever.*

*Jsou tady lidé z Polska, z České republiky a z Lotyšska, kteří o těchto věcích **nevědí vůbec** nic. (A21)*

The examples mentioned above feature *absolutely* with other means reinforcing the negative meaning of the utterance. Besides the presence of the determiner *no* in both cases, the former features the prepositional phrase *at all*, which contributes to the negative connotation of the utterance, highlighting its negative aspect. The same outcome is performed by *whatsoever* in the latter, fulfilling the same function.

4.3.6 Czech counterparts of *absolutely* in the case of premodification of pronouns

Our corpus includes examples of premodification of pronouns as well. However, in this case, the results cannot be considered precise at all. The relatively small sample of five instances (out of 150 examples) comprises of five possible counterparts of the English *absolutely*. The results, therefore, place all five counterparts at the same level. The possible translation counterparts feature *vůbec*, *nijak*, *absolutně*, *naprosto*, as well as rather figuratively meant collocation *se založenýma rukama*. Interestingly, all instances feature the negative pronoun *nothing*. As demonstrated by the following examples, the use of *absolutely* as an intensifier, in this case, indicates a significant pattern in its usage, allowing premodification of words associated with negative prosody.

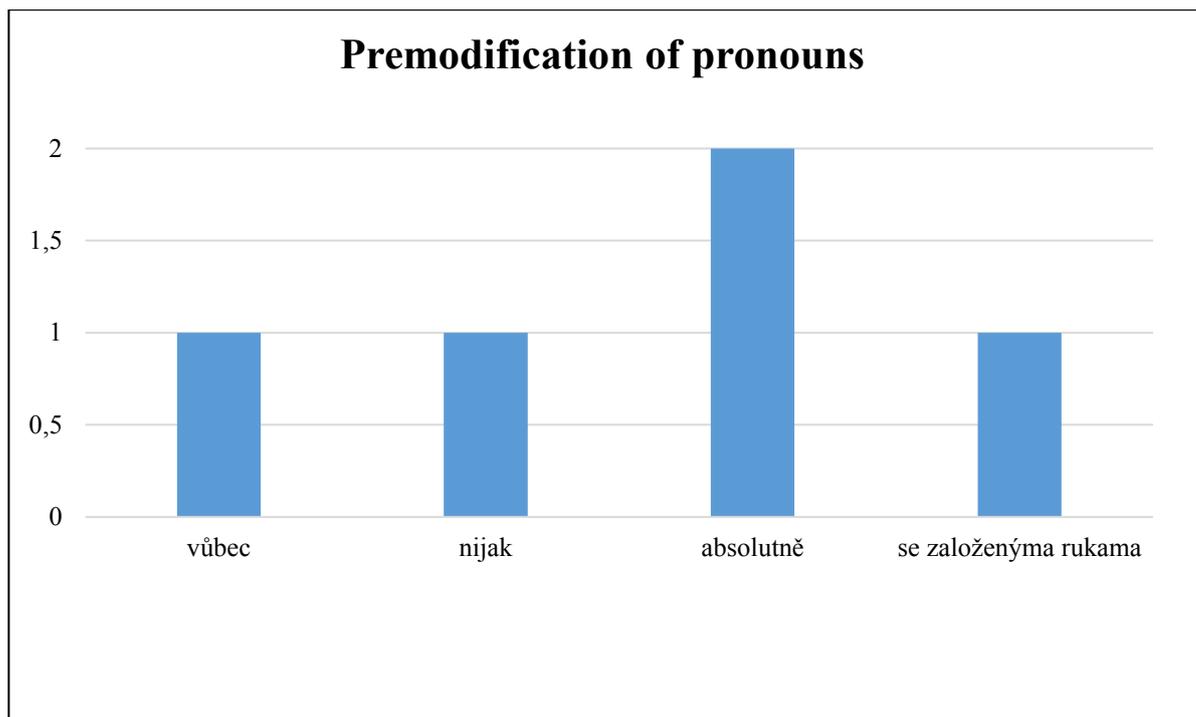


Figure 10: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely* (premodification of pronouns)

- (75) *What came out of this? **Absolutely** nothing. – A kam to vedlo? **Vůbec** nikam. (A2)*
- (76) *They have done **absolutely** nothing to deserve this. – **Nijak** si to nezasloužili. (A63)*
- (77) *If we appease everyone, **absolutely** nothing will come of our climate policy. – Kdybychom měli vyslyšet všechna, tak by naše politika klimatu **absolutně** nikam nedospěla. (A124)*
- (78) *The other provocation came from the other side, to give the little ones a lot and give **absolutely** nothing to the big. – Druhá provokace přišla z druhé strany, dát malým mnoho a nedat velkým **absolutně** nic. (A68)*
- (79) *I do not believe in saying that subsidiarity is important but then doing **absolutely** nothing. – Podle mě nelze tvrdit, že subsidiarita je důležitá, a pak stát **se založenýma rukama**. (A17)*

4.4 Czech translation counterparts and aspects of connotation and denotation

The restricted analysis of the total of 150 concordance lines has put forward three ideas: firstly, the actual syntactic functions of the adverbial of degree, secondly the in-depth analysis of the variation of Czech translation counterpart, thirdly the aspect of connotation. Based on the collected data presented in the appendix, the use of *absolutely* appears to be supported by other means of intensification when it appears in negative contexts. Moreover, positive context allows *absolutely* to highlight the statement or message presented in the given utterance.

Therefore, we can state that the use of *absolutely* in either way influences the translation into Czech and has a significant impact on the eventually chosen counterpart.

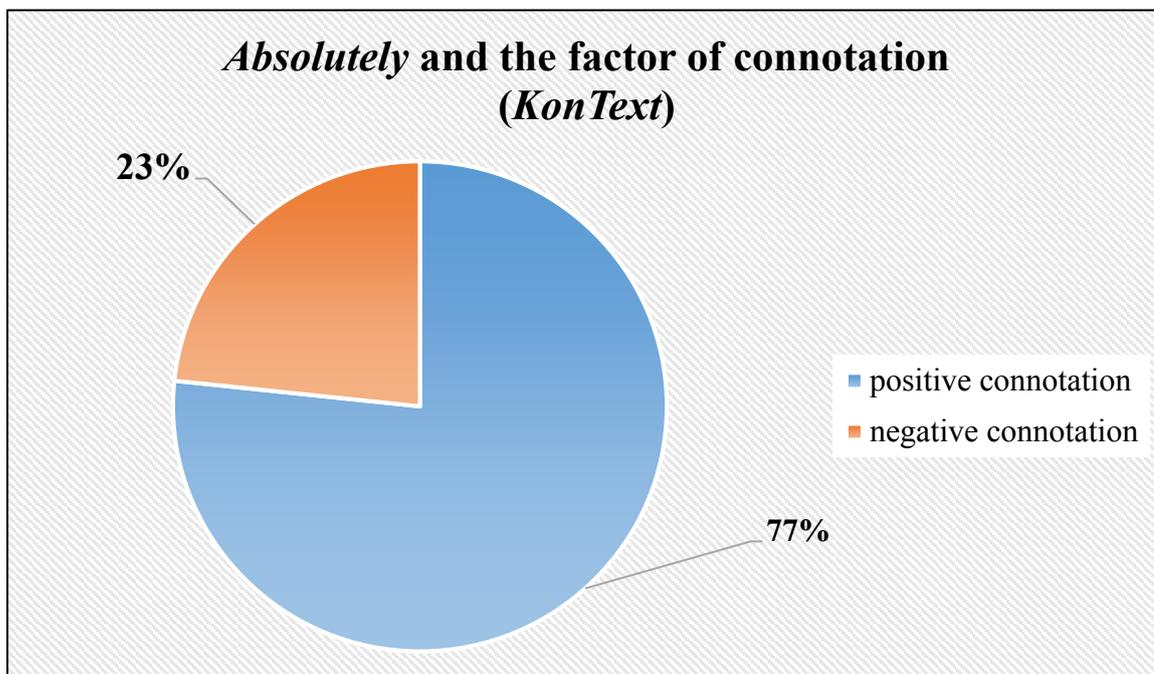


Figure 11: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely*; factor: connotation (*KonText*)

4.4.1 Positive and neutral vs negative connotation

Our data indicates that each Czech translation counterpart appears to comply with the nature of prosody. Thus, each shall be understood as a matter of personal preference. The key criterion that contributes to the choice of a suitable translation counterpart seems to be the factor of connotation and the meaning of the utterance. The results show that the vast majority of our data demonstrates the use of *absolutely* in both neutral or positive contexts. The positive prosody was in one case reinforced by using emphatic *do*:

(80) *Actions that I **absolutely** do support are moves...* (A18)

Our results suggest that the adverbial *absolutely*, which itself appears to have neutral prosody, prefers to be surrounded by words containing strong connotations (such as superlatives), consequently delivering an emphatic utterance.

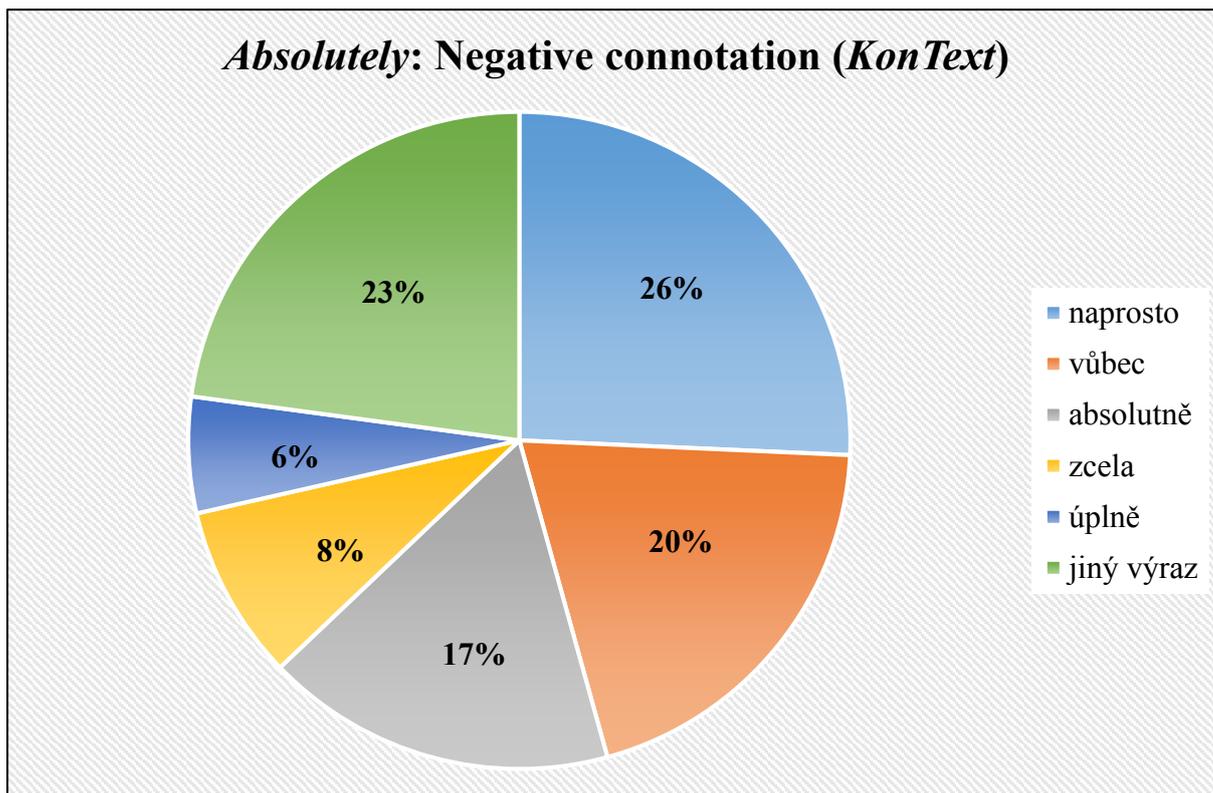


Figure 12: Analysis of Czech counterparts of *absolutely*; negative connotation (*KonText*)

The following examples illustrate the use of *absolutely* when premodifying a determiner. It is significant that the use of an intensifier occurs mainly with negative determiners (i. e. 87) where the speaker attempts to emphasise the negative quality associated with the situation being expressed by the noun (*absolutely no knowledge at all, absolutely no question, absolutely no knowledge of these sorts whatsoever*). Moreover, the negative meaning of the determiner premodified by *absolutely* gets often even more intensified by adding another intensifier emphasising the idea being expressed, *whatsoever* and *at all*, placed at the end of the sentence.

The ratio of examples illustrating negative connotation (35 occurrences in total) cannot be considered marginal. When it comes to negative prosody, it appears that expressions *naprosto*, *vůbec*, and *absolutně* may be considered the most frequent Czech translation counterparts (63% of all occurrences in a negative context) even though these preferred counterparts can be used in all contexts, no matter the nature of prosody.

Naprosto:

(81) ...*a series of absolutely unseemly reactions...* – ...*řadu naprosto nevhodných reakcí...* (A1)

(82) *I find it absolutely intolerable...* – ...*pokládám to za naprosto nepřijatelné...* (A34)

(83) *I find it absolutely shocking...* – *Jsem naprosto v šoku...* (A42)

- (84) *That is **absolutely** ridiculous. – To je **naprosto** směšné.* (A43)
- (85) *It is **absolutely** farcical... – Je **naprosto** směšné...* (A92)
- (86) *It is **absolutely** disgraceful that you are doing this. – Vaše chování je **naprosto** hanebné.* (A94)
- (87) *What is happening in present-day Iran is **absolutely** unacceptable. – To, co se v současnosti děje v Íránu, je **naprosto** nepřípustné.* (A116)
- (88) *They live in **absolutely** deplorable sanitary conditions. – Žijí v **naprosto** žalostných hygienických podmínkách.* (A117)
- (89) *I **absolutely** reject one particular theory which exists in the EU. – **Naprosto** odmítám jednu zvláštní teorii, s níž se v EU setkáváme.* (A140)

Vůbec:

- (90) *What came of all this? **Absolutely** nothing. – A kam to vedlo? **Vůbec** nikam.* (A2)
- (91) *We have people from Poland, the Czech Republic and Latvia who have **absolutely no** knowledge of these sorts of things whatsoever. – Jsou tady lidé z Polska, z České republiky a z Lotyšska, kteří o těchto věcích nevědí **vůbec** nic.* (A21)
- (92) *There is **absolutely no** question of acting through imposition and paternalism. – **Vůbec** nepřipadá v úvahu, že bychom svou činnost vyvíjeli nátlakem a paternalistickým přístupem.* (A24)
- (93) *There is **absolutely no** evidence to suggest that... – **Vůbec** není žádný důkaz, že...* (A41)
- (94) *I am **absolutely not** a lobbyist for the car industry. – Já **vůbec** nelobuji za automobilový průmysl.* (A88)
- (95) *If it is only a question of prolonging the pain, then we gain **absolutely** nothing. – Máme-li pouze prodlužovat bolest, nezískáme **vůbec** nic.* (A103)
- (96) *This serves **absolutely no** purpose and is also harmful to European construction. – To nemá **vůbec** žádný smysl, a zároveň to poškozuje evropský projekt.* (A142)

Absolutně:

- (97) *Directive...prohibits **absolutely** the conversion into... – Směrnice...**absolutně** zakazuje přeměnu na...* (A16)
- (98) *This is **absolutely** unacceptable. – To je **absolutně** nepřijatelné.* (A52)
- (99) *The other provocation came from the other side, to give the little ones a lot and give **absolutely** nothing to the big. – Druhá provokace přišla z druhé strany, dát malým mnoho a nedat velkým **absolutně** nic.* (A68)
- (100) ***Absolutely** nothing will come of our climate policy. – Naše politika klimatu by **absolutně** nikam nedospěla.* (A124)

(101) *The way it is being discussed here is **absolutely** unreal.* – *Způsob, jakým tu o ní diskutujeme, je **absolutně** neskutečný.* (A126)

(102) *There are **absolutely** incredible cases of a total lack of sensitivity...* – *Existují **absolutně** neuvěřitelné případy naprosto necitlivého přístupu...* (A135)

In one case, negative prosody is reinforced by the use of emphatic do, as well as the adverb not to illustrate stronger emphasis:

(103) *First and foremost, I **absolutely** do not agree...* – *Zprvé **zásadně** nesouhlasím...* (A39)

5. CONCLUSION

<i>Absolutely</i> as a modifier			
	modifies	number of occurrences	percentage
Modification of words (word classes)	adjective	112	74.67
	verb	15	10.00
	determiner	10	6.67
	pronoun	5	3.33
	prepositional phrase	3	2.00
	adverb	3	2.00
	noun	0	0.00
Modification of (parts of) sentences	(part of) sentence – disjunct, subjunct	2	1.33
Responses boarding on ellipsis	elliptical response	0	0.00
	total	150	100.00

Figure 13: *Absolutely* as a modifier: overview (*KonText*, 150 occurrences)

5.1 General overview

Figure 13 summarises and provides our results concerning semantic and syntactic functions that have been determined in the analytical part of this thesis. Due to restrictions in the corpus (spoken language, formal speech delivered in the European Parliament), the collected material deals predominantly with the cases of word modification (intensification), whereas two instances show the use of *absolutely* as a degree-of-truth attitudinal disjunct.

The analytical part has proved the preliminary assumption, formulated in the theoretical part, concerning the primary function as a word modifier, most commonly used as an emphaser or intensifier. The corpus featuring 150 instances of its use document that *absolutely* tends to be used most frequently as an adjectival intensifier (75.00% of all cases or 112 examples). The modification of verbs happens to be the second most common function with 10.00% of instances, followed by modification of determiners (6.67%), pronouns (3.33%), adverbs and prepositional phrases (2.00% of occurrences each). The overwhelming majority of occurrences is, therefore, understood to act as an adjunct.

The in-depth analysis of predicates proved that a vast majority of verb phrases premodified by *absolutely* included an auxiliary verb (82.35%). The remaining 16.65% comprised of lexical or

copular verbs. In the case of the former, the analysis proved the following concept: the intrinsic use of modal verbs appears to be associated with intensification by adverbs of degree.

Prior to the analysis of possible Czech translation counterparts of *absolutely*, the relevance of gathered data had been confronted with data in *Treq*. The database proved our assumption that there is not an all-encompassing Czech term that would function as a direct translation counterpart. Instead, there appears to be a plethora of possible translation counterparts that often happen to be interchanged, for they are considered synonymous. Nevertheless, five translation counterparts stood out: *naprosto*, *absolutně*, *zcela*, *úplně*, and *vůbec* (four-fifths of all occurrences combined). A total number of over 30 possible counterparts contribute to the notion of diversity. The analysis of gathered data proved this assumption. *Naprosto* emerged as the most frequent translation counterpart (37 out of 150 occurrences), followed by *zcela* (25 instances), *absolutně* (21 occurrences), and *vůbec* (7 occurrences). Therefore, the analysis proved the uneven distribution of translation counterparts, for the majority of cases resulting in choosing a counterpart as the speaker sees fit. Nevertheless, the five recurrent counterparts mentioned may be considered more frequent in speech.

The choice of the Czech translation counterpart appears to be in compliance with the nature of prosody and shall be understood as a matter of personal preference. On the contrary, specific restrictions for the corpus query need to be taken into account, for our data denote usage in formal speech. The key criterion that contributes to the choice of a suitable translation counterpart seems to be the factor of connotation and the meaning of the utterance. Therefore, our attention was drawn to the nature of prosody. The results show that the vast majority of our data demonstrate the use of *absolutely* in both neutral or positive contexts. However, the ratio of examples illustrating negative connotation (35 occurrences) cannot be considered negligible. When it comes to negative prosody, it appears that expressions *naprosto*, *vůbec*, and *absolutně* may be considered the most frequent Czech translation counterparts (63% of all occurrences in a negative context) even though these preferred counterparts can be used in all contexts, no matter the nature of prosody. In the case of negative prosody, certain lexical expressions can be incorporated into the phrase, contributing to and resulting in a stronger emphasis. Among these, we name especially the determiner *no*, adverbs *whatsoever* and *not*, as well as the prepositional phrase *at all*. The positive prosody was in one case reinforced by using emphatic *do*.

Based on the results from the analytical part of this study, it may be argued that the adverbial *absolutely*, which itself appears to have neutral prosody, prefers to be surrounded by words

containing strong connotations (such as superlatives), consequently delivering an emphatic utterance.

5.2 Obstacles and issues

The problem of interpretation of the nature of *absolutely* arose as the recurrent issue, especially when it comes to the treatment of *absolutely* as a disjunct. The nature of examples classified as disjuncts (cf. 4.2) let us label these instances as truth value attitudinal disjuncts, even though they may still be understood as functioning as emphasizees. We perceive farther identification as considerably subjective, with no clear-cut boundaries available.

The analysis and subsequent transcription of the data from our corpus represented a technical hindrance as well. Despite being highly descriptive, the data included in the *KonText* interface occasionally featured typing errors and lacked punctuation. In a few cases, the Czech counterpart section lacked corresponding highlighted counterparts that had to be searched for. Subsequently, all these instances were corrected in the appendix accordingly.

6. REFERENCES

6.1 Bibliography

- Aijmer, Karin. 2016. “‘You’re *absolutely* welcome, thanks for the ear’: The use of *absolutely* in American soap operas” *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 15(2): 78–94.
- Biber, D. et al. (2006) *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. London: Longman.
- Biber et al. (2002) *Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. London: Longman.
- Carretero, M. (2010) “You’re *absolutely* right!!” A corpus-based contrastive analysis of ‘*absolutely*’ in British English and *absolutamente* in Peninsular Spanish, with special emphasis on the relationship between degree and certainty. In: *Languages in contrast* 10:2. 194-222
- Dušková, L. et al. (2012) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny*. Praha: Academia.
- Gižová, V. (2014) *The adverbs "absolutely", "completely" and "totally" in contemporary American soap operas*. BA thesis. Charles University in Prague
- Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G. K. (2005) *A Student’s Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Huddleston, R. and Pullum G. K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ito, R. and S. Tagliamonte. 2003. ‘Well weird, right dodgy, very strange, really cool: Layering and recycling in English intensifiers. *Language in Society* 32: 257–279.
- Quaglio, P. 2009. Television dialogue. The sitcom Friends vs. natural conversation. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins
- Quirk, R. et al. (1985) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. Chapter 18.51. London: Longman.
- Tagliamonte, S. and C. Roberts. 2005. So weird; so cool; so innovative: The use of intensifiers in the television series Friends. *American Speech* 80(3): 280–300.
- Tao, H. 2007. A corpus-based investigation of *absolutely* and related phenomena in spoken American English. *Journal of English Linguistics* 35(1): 5–29.
- Pertejo, P. N. and Martínez, I.M.P. (2014) That’s *absolutely* crap, totally rubbish The use of the intensifiers *absolutely* and *totally* in the spoken language of British adults and teenagers. In: *Functions of Language* 21: 2. 210-237.

6.2 Sources and tools

Cambridge Dictionary. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> Accessed: 15 May 2019.

Czech National Corpus. <https://www.korpus.cz/> Accessed: 17 March 2019.

Elektronická mluvnice současné angličtiny. <http://emsa.ff.cuni.cz/> Accessed: 17 March 2019.

LDOCE: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>
Accessed: 2 April 2019.

KonText. <https://kontext.korpus.cz/> Accessed: 17 March 2019.

OALD: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>
Accessed: 15 May 2018.

Translation Equivalent Database. <http://treq.korpus.cz/> Accessed: 17 March 2019.

7. RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá adverbium *absolutely* a jeho možnostmi překladu do českého jazyka. Adverbium *absolutely* chápeme jako příslovečné určení míry s primární funkcí popsat a vyjádřit úplnost (Quirk et al., 1985; Huddleston & Pullum, 2002). Sekundární literatura dále zmiňuje další role, které se v souvislosti s tímto adverbium čím dál častěji objevují, jako například zesílená odpověď na pomezí eliptické výpovědi.

Absolutely lze obecně charakterizovat jako adverbium, které se typicky užívá jako příslovečné určení míry nebo jako intenzifikační modifikátor, a to hlavně ve spojení se stupňovatelnými adjektivy a adverbii. Příznačné je jejich užití zejména v neformálním mluveném jazyce, kde mohou zastávat rovněž funkci krátkých neverbálních odpovědí na pomezí elipsy ve funkci důrazného souhlasu. Čím dál častěji se však objevují i ve formálním hovoru.

Teoretická část této práce charakterizuje zkoumané příslovce z formálního, pragmatického, morfologického i syntakticko-sémantického hlediska. Dále dokládá příklady užití adverbia ve větě s odkazem na funkce a situace, v nichž se vyskytuje. Tato část pracuje s třemi hlavními anglickými gramatikami: *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Quirk et al., 1985), *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002) a *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (Biber et al., 1999). Vzhledem k mnoha různým druhům pojetí tohoto adverbia (rozdělení funkcí, různorodá terminologie) v sekundární literatuře primární zdroje srovnáváme s literaturou sekundární. Mezi tyto zdroje řadíme *Mluvnici současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (Dušková et al., 2012) a vybrané předchozí studie na toto téma zaměřující se na inovativní vlastnosti adverbia *absolutely* (Carretero 2010, Pertejo & Martínez 2012, Aijmer 2016).

Charakteristika adverbii z morfologického hlediska je uvedena na začátku teoretické části, dále jsou charakterizovány z hlediska syntaktického. V rámci syntaxe Quirk et al. rozlišují dva typy adverbii:

- a. modifikátory (rovněž přívlastky), které modifikují zejména adjektiva a adverbia, ale vyskytují se i ve spojení s dalšími slovními druhy, jako jsou zájmena, (pre)determinátory či číslovky,
- b. příslovečná určení, za něž považujeme větné členy ovlivňující větné celky a predikáty a jejichž přítomnost ve větě je často fakultativní.

Za typy modifikátorů považujeme intenzifikátory, jež se často vyskytují s výše zmíněnými slovními druhy. Rozdíl nastává u adjektiv, jelikož intenzifikátory jsou spjaty jen se

stupňovatelnými adjektivy. U adjektiv nestupňovatelných modifikátory posilují význam slova, které modifikují.

Ze syntaktického hlediska můžeme příslovečná určení dále dělit na ta, která jsou začleněna do větné struktury (adjunkty, subjunkty), a také na ta, která do větné struktury začleněna nejsou (disjunkty, konjunkty). Klasifikace příslovečných určení je však velmi složitá, což dokládají i použité gramatiky, ve kterých je *absolutely* chápáno různými způsoby. Quirk et al. *absolutely* považují za subjunkt. Tato třída příslovečných určení obsahuje intenzifikátory. Subjunktory dělíme na dvě hlavní podskupiny – intenzifikátory a emfatické. Intenzifikátory dále rozdělujeme na tzv. povzbuzující nebo maximalizující intenzifikátory.

Teoretická část práce dále popisuje syntaktické funkce příslovečného určení *absolutely*. To ve větách plní zejména funkci adjunkt, možné je i plnění funkce disjunkt, tato role se však nejeví být tak častá v porovnání s adjunktami.

Syntaktické funkce *absolutely* je možné rozdělit do tří základních skupin: modifikace slov, modifikace celých vět nebo jejich částí, a v neposlední řadě odpovědi na pomezí elipsy vyjadřující důraznější souhlas. Námi konzultovaná literatura i výsledky předchozích studií naznačují, že *absolutely* se v moderní angličtině nejčastěji užívá při premodifikaci slovních druhů, nejčastěji adjektiv, sloves, zájmen, (pre)determinátorů a substantiv. Na vzestupu je dále jeho užití v rámci již zmíněných souhlasných odpovědí.

V analytické části této práce jsou uvedené teoretické poznatky zkoumány v rámci korpusové analýzy. Námi vytvořený korpus se skládá ze 150 konkordančních řádků, extrahovaných z paralelního korpusu *InterCorp*, přesněji z rozhraní *KonText*. Příklady ilustrují formální použití adverbia *absolutely* v mluvených projevech, jež byly předneseny v Evropském parlamentu v rozmezí let 2007 a 2010. Na základě těchto dat analytická část této práce dále porovnává anglický originál s českým překladem. Přitom se zaměřuje na funkci adverbia ve větě a jeho český protějšek. Hlavním cílem práce bylo ověřit distribuci syntaktických a pragmatických funkcí zkoumaného adverbia, a dále také analyzovat četnost jeho českých protějšků v závislosti na povaze originálu. Námi stanovená hypotéza spočívala v přesvědčení, že v českém jazyce neexistuje jeden přesný (modelový) překlad *absolutely*, ale spíše větší množství synonymických výrazů, které bude možné víceméně zaměňovat v závislosti na kontextu. Přitom jsme vycházeli ze vztahu anglického adverbia *absolutely* a jeho možných synonym, mezi něž lze řadit výrazy *totally*, *entirely*, *completely* či *utterly*.

Výsledky práce indikují soulad s poznatky uvedenými v teoretické části práce. Z celkového počtu 150 příkladů *absolutely* v téměř 75 % případů premodifikovalo adjektivum, v 10 % příkladů se pak jednalo o sloveso. Dále následují determinátory, adverbia, zájmena a předložkové fráze, kde se výskyt shodně pohyboval mezi 2 a 3 %. V drtivé většině případů je *absolutely* tudíž považováno za adjunkt, pouze 2 případy demonstrují užití *absolutely* ve funkci disjunktů.

Z hlediska premodifikace predikátu vyšlo při analýze najevo, že drtivá většina slovesných frází obsahuje premodifikována *absolutely* obsahuje modální sloveso (82,35 %). Zbýlých 17,65 % případů slovesné premodifikace obsahovalo jednoduchý slovesný přísudek či přísudek jmenný se sponou.

Před samotnou analýzou českých překladových protějšků zkoumaného adverbia jsme relevantnost výsledků konfrontovali s překladovými ekvivalenty *absolutely* v nástroji Treq. Tento nástroj potvrdil naše očekávání, že pro *absolutely* neexistuje jeden vyhraněný překladový ekvivalent. Jako nejpoužívanější ekvivalenty Treq označil české výrazy *naprosto* (40 % případů), *absolutně* (20,5 %), *zcela* (12 %), *úplně* a *vůbec* (oba 5 % výskytů). Celkové množství více než třiceti překladatelských řešení potvrzuje diverzitu překladu.

Samotná analýza tento předpoklad potvrdila. Nejčastějším překladovým protějškem v našem korpusu je výraz *naprosto* (37 případů z celkového počtu 150). Následují ekvivalenty *zcela* (25 případů), *absolutně* (21 případů), *úplně* (13 případů) a *vůbec* (7 případů). Výzkum tudíž prokázal, že v českém jazyce existuje vícero překladových ekvivalentů zkoumaného adverbia, nicméně se zdá, že zmíněných pět překladových protějšků lze považovat za automatizované výrazy, které čeští překladatelé a mluvčí preferují před méně častými. Volba českého překladového protějšku se nicméně zdá být spojená s faktorem sémantické prosodie a preference mluvčích. Na druhou stranu je nutné brát v úvahu restriktce, jež byly provedeny pro získání materiálu z *KonTextu*, tj. formální mluvený projev, tudíž je jasné, že překlady by měly nést rysy řečnického a některých případech zcela určitě i odborného funkčního stylu.

Důležitou roli při volbě překladového ekvivalentu patrně hraje i význam a konotace celé výpovědi. Z tohoto důvodu byla při analýze četnosti překladových ekvivalentů adverbia *absolutely* pozornost rovněž věnována prosodii. Přestože naprostá většina extrahovaných příkladů demonstruje užití *absolutely* v neutrálním či dokonce pozitivním kontextu, nezanedbatelná část případů ilustruje negativní konotaci (celkem 35 výskytů). V tomto případě se zdá, že překladové ekvivalenty *naprosto*, *vůbec* a *absolutně* jsou chápány jako nejčastěji používané protějšky (celkový podíl 63 % příkladů), přestože se ukazuje, že preferovanější

překladové protějšky lze bez problémů užít ve všech případech bez ohledu na kontext. V případě negativní prosodie však lze tvrdit, že adverbium *absolutely* je dále podpořeno opornými výrazy posilující negativní kontext výpovědi. Zejména se jedná o negativní determinátor *no*, záporku *not*, předložkovou frázi *at all*, či výraz význam posilující adverbium *whatsoever*. Positivní prosodie byla v jedné případě podpořena užitím emfatického tvaru slovesa *do*.

Z analytické části práce přímo vyplývá, že výraz *absolutely*, který se sám jeví mít neutrální prosodii, preferuje spojení se slovy, která obsahují silnou konotaci nebo případně superlativ, důsledkem čehož je emfatické podání výpovědi.

8. APPENDIX

The following appendix contains a list of 150 examples of the adverbial *absolutely* used in speeches presented in the European Parliament which was created by using the parallel corpus InterCorp and its interface *KonText*. All occurrences of the parallel lines represent the first 150 occurrences in the corpus, with no preselections, nor modifications of the data made.

Data description: **The use of *absolutely* by speakers of the European Parliament**
(source: *InterCorp*, *KonText*)

Data specification: **Spoken English, European Parliament (speeches of MPs), 2007**

Number of occurrences: **150 (no preselection or modification)**

Native speakers, credibility: **N/A (no distinctions available)**

Speakers: **MPs, native x non-native speakers (mixed)**

Czech counterparts: **translated based on English original**

Occurrence	English	Czech
A1	In Italy, on the other hand, a series of absolutely unseemly reactions ensued.	V Itálii naopak vyvolaly řadu naprosto nevhodných reakcí.
A2	What came of all this? Absolutely nothing.	A kam to vedlo? Vůbec nikam.
A3	This is absolutely crucial.	Je to tedy velmi podstatná věc.
A4	I would like to underline the principle yet again: laws should only be adopted where absolutely necessary.	Rád bych znovu zdůraznil zásadu: zákony se mají přijímat jedině tehdy, pokud je to absolutně nevyhnutelné.
A5	We have seen one very clear example with a very important project to do with European contract law, which absolutely should be discussed and discussed politically.	Měli jsme možnost vidět jeden velmi jasný příklad velmi důležitého projektu, který se týkal evropského smluvního práva, jenž by se měl rozhodně politicky projednat.
A6	The 25% reduction is absolutely achievable.	Snížení o 25 % je bez problémů dosažitelné.
A7	Mr President, my fellow Members are absolutely correct to say that EURES is creating a European success story.	Vážený pane předsedající, mí kolegové mají naprosto pravdu, tvrdí-li, že EURES je příkladem úspěšné evropské akce.
A8	As Mr Toubon said, it is absolutely right to issue a strong call to all of us and particularly to the Commission.	Jak pan Toubon řekl, je naprosto správné vyslat silný signál nám všem, a především Komisi.

A9	It is absolutely clear that a fully functioning single market is a massive competitive advantage for Europe in the global economy.	Je naprosto zřejmé, že plně funkční jednotný trh je obrovskou konkurenční výhodou Evropy v celosvětové ekonomice.
A10	It is absolutely essential that the establishment remains a shipyard and that it forms part of the shipbuilding industry and no other.	Je naprosto nezbytné, aby loděnice zůstaly zachovány a byly nadále součástí loďařského průmyslu.
A11	I feel I cannot end this speech without touching on two subjects which I believe are absolutely decisive for the future of the Union.	Nemohl bych svůj projev ukončit, aniž bych se zmínil o dvou tématech, která považuji za zcela zásadní pro budoucnost Unie.
A12	I believe it is absolutely crucial to the sustainability of the process of European integration to ensure that Europe is a central and influential player in the global, multilateral and multipolar world that is emerging.	Domnívám se, že pro udržitelnost procesu evropské integrace je klíčové , zda se Evropě podaří stát se ústředním a vlivným hráčem v nově vznikajícím globálním, multilaterálním a multipolárním světě.
A13	I think it can be said that the consultation on this report was absolutely exemplary.	Myslím, že mohu říci, že konzultace při zpracování této zprávy byly vskutku příkladné.
A14	But, in general, on the amounts – that is an absolutely different question.	Ale jde-li obecně o částky, jedná se o zcela jinou otázku.
A15	The Greek Supreme Court has ruled, with reference to the Greek Constitution and setting aside previous case-law, that it is absolutely prohibited to convert fixed-term employment contracts into contracts of indefinite duration in the Greek public sector.	Řecký nejvyšší soud s odkazem na řeckou ústavu a bez ohledu na předchozí judikaturu rozhodl, že je v řeckém veřejném sektoru zcela zakázáno převádět pracovní smlouvy na dobu určitou na smlouvy na dobu neurčitou.
A16	Directive 1999/70/EC precluded the application of national legislation which, in the public sector alone, prohibits absolutely the conversion into an employment contract of indefinite duration of a succession of fixed-term contracts.	Směrnice 1999/70/ES brání použití vnitrostátní právní úpravy, která pouze ve veřejném sektoru absolutně zakazuje přeměnu na smlouvy na dobu neurčitou po sobě jdoucích smluv.
A17	I do not believe in saying that subsidiarity is important but then doing absolutely nothing.	Podle mě nelze tvrdit, že subsidiarita je důležitá, a pak stát se založenými rukama .
A18	Actions that I absolutely do support are moves to reduce to a minimum the permitted blood alcohol levels	Akce, které zcela podporuji, jsou akce na snížení minimálního povoleného obsahu alkoholu v krvi nejen u

	not just for young drivers, but also for persons working in public transport.	mladých řidičů, ale i u řidičů veřejné dopravy.
A19	We know that enforcement work is absolutely fundamental.	Uvědomujeme si, že činnost vynucování práva je absolutně základní.
A20	Decisions are being made here today by people with absolutely no knowledge of international finance at all.	Dnes činí rozhodnutí lidé bez jakýchkoli poznatků o mezinárodních financích.
A21	We have people from Poland, the Czech Republic and Latvia who have absolutely no knowledge of these sorts of things whatsoever.	Jsou tady lidé z Polska, z České republiky a z Lotyšska, kteří o těchto věcích nevědí vůbec nic.
A22	That identity is absolutely vital for us to clear up.	Je nevyhnutelné je poznat, abychom mohli dát všechno do pořádku.
A23	As I have just been informed, the Spanish Parliament has given us its permission, which is absolutely exceptional.	Jak jsem byla právě informována, španělský parlament nám udělil povolení, což je úplně výjimečná situace.
A24	There is absolutely no question of acting through imposition and paternalism.	Vůbec nepřipadá v úvahu, že bychom svou činnost vyvíjeli nátlakem a paternalistickým přístupem.
A25	It is absolutely essential that we criticise countries that believe themselves to be democracies.	Je úplně zásadní, abychom kritizovali země, které si myslí, že jsou demokratické.
A26	The EU must defend this principle absolutely in the light of the historical, cultural and moral values by which it is guided.	EU musí prosazovat tuto zásadu v absolutní míře vzhledem k historickým, kulturním a morálním hodnotám, které vedou její činnost.
A27	That is absolutely essential to the opinion that we have delivered.	To je základní myšlenka názoru, který prezentujeme.
A28	First of all, it is absolutely right that there is a need to review the joined-up thinking.	V první řadě je zcela správné, že je potřebná revize společného uvažování.
A29	Financial capability and services – an absolutely good and proper point.	Finanční zdatnost a služby – velmi dobrá otázka, která je absolutně na místě.
A30	We need to remain absolutely united with a clear set of rules.	Musíme zůstat úplně jednotní a mít jasný soubor pravidel.

A31	This paper is absolutely necessary as, currently, 16 Member States impose a tax at 16 different levels.	Tento dokument je nevyhnutelný , neboť nyní 16 členských států ukládá daň se 16 různými sazbami.
A32	This is why the absolutely essential reform of the CAP must take account of the need to combat desertification.	Proto musí absolutně nezbytná reforma společné zemědělské politiky (SPP) vzít v úvahu potřebu boje proti dezertifikaci.
A33	She made it absolutely clear that the way forward that she saw for Burma was for the EU to impose rigorous sanctions against the regime.	Tehdy absolutně jasně řekla, že cestu vpřed vidí pro Barmu v uvalení přísných sankcí vůči tamějšímu režimu ze strany EU.
A34	I can understand that but I find it absolutely intolerable for the President of this Chamber to have to defend himself in person against such an unreasonable and inappropriate attack.	Dokáži to pochopit, ale pokládám za naprosto nepřijatelné, aby se předseda této komory musel osobně hájit proti tak nepřiměřenému a nevhodnému útoku.
A35	It is absolutely essential that we make the link between energy and environment.	Je zcela nezbytné vytvořit spojnici mezi energetikou a životním prostředím.
A36	The rapporteur is absolutely right when she focuses attention on two very practical matters with regard to how we achieve these targets within the EU.	Paní zpravodajka má úplnou pravdu, když upozorňuje na dva praktické aspekty způsobu dosahování těchto cílů v EU.
A37	It is an ambitious goal, but absolutely essential for facilitating development of the European High-speed rail network and cross-border operating arrangements relating to it.	Je to ambiciózní cíl, ale naprosto nezbytný pro usnadnění rozvoje evropské vysokorychlostní železniční sítě a přeshraničních provozních ujednání, který s rozvojem souvisí.
A38	Member States have the possibility to more efficiently amortize their long term investments, which are absolutely necessary for special infrastructure.	Členské státy mají možnost efektivněji umořovat své dlouhodobé investice, které jsou zcela nezbytné pro speciální infrastrukturu.
A39	First and foremost, I absolutely do not agree with increasing the aid in cases of partial restructuring to the level of full restructuring aid.	Zprvė zásadně nesouhlasím s navýšením podpory v případě částečné restrukturalizace na úroveň podpory pro plnou restrukturalizaci.
A40	It is absolutely crucial that we secure and strengthen this.	Je naprosto životně důležité, abychom tento dozor zajistili a posílili.
A41	It is detrimental to human dignity and there is absolutely no evidence	Je pro lidskou důstojnost zhoubný a není vůbec žádný důkaz, že by trest

	to suggest that the use of the death penalty serves as a deterrent against crimes.	smrti sloužil jako zastrašující prostředek proti trestné činnosti.
A42	I find it absolutely shocking that the Polish Government should have tried to block this initiative with such opportunistic and contradictory arguments.	Jsem naprosto v šoku, když zjišťuji, že by polská vláda chtěla zkusit zablokovat tuto iniciativu s tak oportunistickými a protikladnými argumenty.
A43	That is absolutely ridiculous.	To je naprosto směšné.
A44	We also always made it absolutely clear that this strategic partnership which we believe the EU should establish with Brazil in no way excluded or limited other relations.	Také jsme však jasně vysvětlili, že toto strategické partnerství, které by dle našeho názoru EU měla s Brazílií uzavřít, v žádném případě nevylučuje ani neomezuje jiné vztahy.
A45	This is absolutely right.	To je naprostá pravda.
A46	It is absolutely right to seek new funding opportunities.	Je naprosto správné hledat nové příležitosti financování.
A47	It seems to me that Mr Saryusz-Wolski is absolutely right in that we must have an institutional representative.	Mám pocit, že pan Saryusz-Wolski má naprostou pravdu, že musíme mít institucionálního zástupce.
A48	We all now agree that this means creating an absolutely inextricable link between the external dimension and internal immigration policies.	Všichni se nyní shodneme na tom, že to znamená vytvoření absolutně neoddělitelného propojení vnějšího rozměru s vnitřními politikami přistěhovalectví.
A49	Please allow me to thank both of the rapporteurs for their work, which has been valuable and absolutely to the point.	Dovolte mi, prosím, abych poděkoval oběma zpravodajům za jejich práci, který byla hodnotná a zcela věcná.
A50	This is absolutely essential if we are to adopt a coherent European policy in this area.	Máme-li v této oblasti přijmout soudržnou evropskou politiku, pak je to naprosto nevyhnutelné.
A51	This dialogue is absolutely fundamental.	Tento dialog je naprosto nevyhnutelný.
A52	This is absolutely unacceptable.	To je absolutně nepřijatelné.
A53	The ending of set-aside is absolutely the right course of action for us to pursue.	Ukončením vynětí půdy z produkce jsme se vydali zcela správným směrem.
A54	It is therefore absolutely essential to have these areas in production.	Proto je zcela nezbytné, aby se v těchto oblastech vyrábělo.

A55	It is absolutely vital that we admit only skilled labour.	Je však bezpodmínečné, abychom přijímali jen kvalifikovanou pracovní sílu.
A56	It was therefore absolutely appropriate to act in the spirit of the principle of subsidiarity.	Z tohoto důvodu bylo zcela vhodné jednat v duchu zásady subsidiarity.
A57	Inclusion will give the EU institutions powers in sectors which are absolutely crucial to all of us in our everyday lives.	Začlenění poskytne institucím EU pravomoc v oblastech, které jsou pro nás všechny v našem životě klíčové .
A58	It is therefore absolutely vital that our protection force is not implicated in any way in the operations being undertaken by the various humanitarian groups that are working in the region.	Proto je důležité, aby naše ochranná síla v žádném případě nebyla zapletená do operací humanitárních skupin, které působí v oblasti.
A59	She made it absolutely clear that she wanted the EU to impose the strongest possible sanctions.	Vyjádřila názor, že souhlasí s uložením nejpřísnějších sankcí ze strany EU.
A60	What I can say absolutely unequivocally is that Croatia has a solid European prospect.	Jednoznačně mohu říci jen tolik , že Chorvatsko má vyhlídky stát se součástí Evropy.
A61	It is absolutely clear that we do need to monitor this.	Je zcela jasné, že to potřebujeme monitorovat.
A62	These people cannot be people who lead absolutely normal lives.	Tito lidé nemohou vést úplně normální život.
A63	They have done absolutely nothing to deserve this.	Nijak si to nezasloužili.
A64	I think that these are absolutely essential conditions for the EP.	Podle mě se pro Evropský parlament jedná o naprosto nevyhnutelné podmínky.
A65	We do not think it makes any sense in a Treaty on a Union that functions by majority to introduce elements of unanimity that would absolutely destroy the process.	Nemyslíme si, že má nějaký význam zavádět do smlouvy o Unii, která funguje na základě většiny, prvky jednomyslného hlasování, které by proces úplně zničily.
A66	We are organising a brain drain from the poor countries, which is absolutely scandalous.	Organizujeme únik mozků z chudých zemí, což je zcela skandální.
A67	This is a fundamental political choice and is absolutely necessary to obtain unanimity in the European Council.	Je to základní politická volba a je absolutně nevyhnutelné získat jednohlasný souhlas v Evropské radě.

A68	The other provocation came from the other side, to give the little ones a lot and give absolutely nothing to the big.	Druhá provokace přišla z druhé strany, dát malým mnoho a nedat velkým absolutně nic.
A69	I must also stress that in the case of Greece an increase in the number of seats provided for, from 22 to 23, would be absolutely fair.	Musím také zdůraznit, že v případě Řecka by bylo navrhované zvýšení křesel z 22 na 23 úplně spravedlivé.
A70	This is absolutely clear.	To je absolutně jasné.
A71	I want to congratulate on the integrated network for maritime surveillance, which I think is absolutely vital if we are going to improve safety and stamp out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.	Rád bych poblahopřál k integrované síti námořního dohledu, která je podle mě zcela nevyhnutelná, pokud chceme zlepšit bezpečnost a odstranit nezákonný, neregulovaný a neohlášený rybolov.
A72	It is absolutely correct to say.	Je to naprosto správné říct.
A73	Publishing the names of those receiving agricultural subsidies is absolutely necessary in the interests of a transparent European policy.	V zájmu transparentní evropské politiky je úplně nevyhnutelné zveřejnit jména těch, kteří dostávají zemědělské dotace.
A74	We believe that this clarification is absolutely necessary.	Domníváme se, že toto objasnění je naprosto potřebné.
A75	Several people raised the issue of the publication of information on structural funds, but absolutely the same logic applies to the Structural Funds.	Několik lidí připomnělo otázku zveřejnění informací v případě strukturálních fondů. Úplně stejná logika ale platí pro Strukturální fondy.
A76	There absolutely must be equal conditions for cabotage and compliance with social and environmental standards.	Je absolutně nevyhnutelné, aby existovaly stejné podmínky pro vnitrostátní lety a dodržování souladu se sociálními a environmentálními standardy.
A77	There are many ways to do that, but an integrated approach is absolutely essential.	K tomu existuje mnoho způsobů, ale absolutně nutný je integrovaný přístup.
A78	We should therefore allow developments to take their course and only regulate what is absolutely necessary, namely the air transport management needed in order to achieve organised air transport systems in the EU.	Proto bychom měli umožnit, aby vývoj nabral svůj směr a regulovat jen to, co je absolutně nutné, konkrétně řízení letecké dopravy potřebné k dosažení organizovaných systémů letecké dopravy v EU.
A79	I think you are absolutely right.	Myslím, že máte úplnou pravdu.

A80	I support this report because it is absolutely essential at this time that we in the EU make our voice heard on behalf of the people of Gaza.	Podporuji tuto zprávu, protože je momentálně opravdu nezbytné, abychom se my tady v EU výrazně postavili za lidi z Gazy.
A81	Plant protection products are expensive, and no farmer will apply more than is absolutely necessary.	Výrobky na ochranu rostlin jsou drahé a žádný zemědělec si nedovolí aplikovat více, než je nezbytně nutné.
A82	I cannot support those who defend the use of pesticides, because it is absolutely vital that we rid our environment and our bodies of these dangerous substances.	Nemohu však podporovat ty, kteří souhlasí s používáním pesticidů, protože je nesmírně důležité, abychom se zbavili nebezpečných látek v našem životním prostředí a v našich tělech.
A83	It will therefore be absolutely essential to establish strict rules for the placing of products on the market.	Proto bude absolutně nezbytné, aby byla stanovena přísná pravidla pro uvádění výrobků na trh.
A84	We set up a tabling office ourselves to ensure that the formulation of motions and official documentation was absolutely correct.	Dokonce sami budujeme útvar pro předkládání návrhů s cílem zajistit, aby formulace návrhů na projednání a oficiální dokumenty byly úplně správné.
A85	I believe that manufacturers should be set absolutely clear targets with no room for wriggling.	Jsem přesvědčen, že výrobci automobilů by měli mít přesně dané cíle bez jakékoli možnosti mezi nimi kličkovat.
A86	I am absolutely convinced that with our revised strategy and the imminent legislative framework we will offer car manufacturers equal terms of competition.	Jsem si úplně jistý, že prostřednictvím naší přepracované strategie a bezprostředním právním rámcem poskytneme výrobcům aut stejné podmínky hospodářské soutěže.
A87	That gives commercial interests priority over the environment and we absolutely cannot allow that.	Tím upřednostňuje komerční zájmy před životním prostředím, což v žádném případě nesmíme dovolit.
A88	I am absolutely not a lobbyist for the car industry.	Já vůbec nelobuji za automobilový průmysl.
A89	That is absolutely essential.	To je vcelku nezbytné.
A90	It must be absolutely clear, with no ifs or buts, that every country can choose its own forms of technology.	Musí být vcelku jasně řečeno, bez jakýchkoliv „kdyby“ a „ale,“ že každá země si může zvolit vlastní druh technologie.

A91	Safety must be absolutely paramount.	Bezpečnost musí být absolutně prvořadá.
A92	It is absolutely farcical for the Commission to say that setting a tax base will not eventually set a tax rate.	Je naprosto směšné, když Komise tvrdí, že zavedení daňového základu nakonec nepovede k zavedení daňové sazby.
A93	They did an absolutely magnificent job.	Odvedli naprosto skvělou práci.
A94	It is absolutely disgraceful that you are doing this.	Vaše chování je naprosto hanebné.
A95	European legislation must absolutely take into account and support their requests to prevent their slow but inexorable disappearance from the market.	Evropská legislativa musí vzít v úvahu a podporovat jejich požadavky, aby se předešlo jejich pomalému, ale neúprosnému mizení z trhu.
A96	The European budget absolutely must continue to help those fighting the scourges afflicting European society.	Evropský rozpočet musí i nadále pomáhat těm, kdo bojují s pohromami sužujícími evropskou společnost.
A97	For this purpose allocating resources that belong to all the EU countries is absolutely necessary.	Přidělení prostředků všem zemím EU je pro tyto účely naprosto nezbytné.
A98	The University of Amman has just conducted a study which estimates that Jordan has more than a million refugees – an absolutely catastrophic macroeconomic impact.	Ammánská univerzita právě provedla studii, v níž se odhaduje, že Jordánsko má více než jeden milion utečenců, což má úplně katastrofický makroekonomický dosah.
A99	The situation is absolutely tragic and we can no longer ignore what is going on.	Situace je nepochybně tragická a my už to nemůžeme déle ignorovat.
A100	It should absolutely not be done any more in their companies.	K něčemu podobnému by už v jejich společnostech nemělo docházet.
A101	Your example is absolutely a domestic issue and should be dealt with by the national competition authority.	Váš příklad je úplně domácí záležitostí a měl by se jím zabývat vnitrostátní orgán pro hospodářskou soutěž.
A102	My colleague is absolutely right when he says that we must think about preventing European companies.	Můj kolega zcela správně tvrdí, že musíme chránit evropské společnosti před znevýhodňováním.

A103	If it is only a question of prolonging the pain, then we gain absolutely nothing.	Máme-li pouze prodlužovat bolest, nezískáme vůbec nic.
A104	To protect workers, though, it is absolutely essential that a comprehensive smoking ban be brought in in all Member States.	Pro ochranu pracovníků je naprosto nevyhnutelné navrhnout komplexní zákaz kouření ve všech členských státech.
A105	With this in mind, it is absolutely essential that lifelong education and training should be adapted to the demands of the labour market and constantly respond to them.	Vzhledem k tomu je absolutně nevyhnutelné, aby se rozhodlo o celoživotním vzdělávání a odborné přípravě podle požadavků pracovního trhu a neustále se na ně reagovalo.
A106	This is absolutely clear and therefore cannot, or at least should not give rise to any doubts.	To je nanejvýš jasné, a proto to nesmí, nebo by přinejmenším nemělo vzbuzovat žádné pochybnosti.
A107	It is based on this absolutely undeniable finding that we must build a relationship which is course mutually beneficial.	Opírá se to o absolutně nevyvratitelné zjištění o potřebě budování vztahu založeného na společných hodnotách a zásadách, který je přirozeně vzájemně prospěšný.
A108	You are absolutely right, but I can assure you that they will be on the table as well.	Máte úplnou pravdu, ale mohu vás ujistit, že i ony budou na stole.
A109	It is absolutely essential for the Member States and social partners to base their cooperation on mutual trust.	Je bezpodmínečně nutné, aby ve fázi jeho realizace členské státy a sociální partneři spolupracovali na základě vzájemné důvěry.
A110	I am absolutely certain that the hazards that pesticides pose to human health must be reduced.	Jsem si zcela jistá, že nebezpečí, která představují pesticidy pro lidské zdraví, se musí snížit.
A111	This is absolutely accepted as the Council has repeatedly asserted that the future of Serbia naturally lies in its future membership of the EU.	Je to úplně přijatelné, neboť Rada opakovaně vyhlásila, že budoucností Srbska je přirozeně jeho členství v EU.
A112	The question of food provision has now become absolutely crucial.	Otázka zabezpečení potravin se nyní stala zcela klíčovou.
A113	For these reasons, I think the proposal put forward in the report is absolutely unacceptable.	Z těchto důvodů si myslím, že návrh předložený v této zprávě je zcela nepřijatelný.
A114	It is absolutely crucial that this can be done in reality and is not simply	Naprosto rozhodující je, aby se to uplatňovalo v praxi a abychom se

	something that we can boast about around the world.	před celým světem pouze nevychloubali.
A115	It is absolutely crucial that the citizens who should benefit from the bank's activities in countries outside Europe have the opportunity to bring matters before the Ombudsman.	Je naprosto rozhodující, aby občané, kteří by měli využívat výhody bankovní činnosti v zemích mimo Evropu, měli možnost předložit svoje záležitosti veřejnému ochránci práv.
A116	What is happening in present-day Iran is absolutely unacceptable.	To, co se v současnosti děje v Íránu, je naprosto nepřijatelné.
A117	They live in absolutely deplorable sanitary conditions.	Žijí v naprosto žalostných hygienických podmínkách.
A118	We must absolutely leave aside the fact that in Italy, we probably campaign in different coalitions.	Musíme zcela ponechat stranou skutečnost, že v Itálii jsme každý v jiné koalici.
A119	We will understand that the content of the decree is absolutely fair.	Pochopíme, že obsah tohoto nařízení je naprosto bezvadný.
A120	I believe that this clarification is absolutely vital.	Domnívám se, že toto objasnění je životně důležité.
A121	I think she has done an absolutely fantastic job on a report which is not needed or wanted by most of us.	Domnívám se, že odvedla naprosto fantastickou práci na návrhu, který většina z nás nepotřebuje ani nechce.
A122	I think Mrs Gutiérrez-Cortines has done an absolutely fantastic job and I will support her totally if this House decides not to reject it.	Domnívám se, že paní Gutiérrez-Cortinesová odvedla naprosto fantastickou práci a pokud se komora rozhodne jej nezamítnout, pak ji plně podpořím.
A123	I thought Mr Allister's points were absolutely correct.	Domnívám se, že to, o čem mluvil pan Alister, je naprosto správně.
A124	The aviation industry is utterly opposed to receiving excessively tough action, but we hear this from all sectors, and if we appease everyone, absolutely nothing will come of our climate policy.	Letectví se naprosto brání tomu, aby se na něj vztahovala přehnaně přísná opatření, avšak toto slyšíme od všech odvětví, a kdybychom měli vyslyšet všechna, tak by naše politika klimatu absolutně nikam nedospěla.
A125	I think you are absolutely correct in underlining the need to have information about the procedure.	Myslím, že máte naprostou pravdu, když zdůrazňujete nezbytnost disponovat informací o postupu.
A126	The way it is being discussed here is absolutely unreal.	Způsob, jakým tu o ní diskutujeme, je absolutně neskutečný.
A127	The EU is absolutely about meeting the challenges.	EU je postavena na vyrovnání se s výzvami.

A128	I agree absolutely that this is not just for our economic progress but also because this will deliver social progress.	Plně souhlasím s tím, že to není pouze pro náš hospodářský pokrok, ale i pro dosažení sociálního pokroku.
A129	I am convinced that the clauses that we have approved are absolutely necessary.	Jsem přesvědčen, že ustanovení, která jsme schválili, jsou zcela potřebná.
A130	We know that a new international treaty is absolutely crucial.	Víme, že nová mezinárodní smlouva je zcela zásadní.
A131	The EU's role in the world is now absolutely vital if we are to achieve certain balances which are essential to the pursuit of global peace and justice.	EU má v současnosti nezastupitelnou úlohu ve světě při dosažení určité rovnováhy, která je potřebná na podporu celosvětového míru a spravedlnosti.
A132	I personally believe that this decision is absolutely vital.	Osobně totiž toto rozhodnutí považuji za naprosto klíčové.
A133	It is absolutely necessary that we continue to debate this issue time and time again.	Je naprosto nezbytné, abychom v diskusích o této záležitosti pokračovali.
A134	I am absolutely and totally in favour of Mario Mantovani's proposals to block entry into the EU.	V plné míře a zcela podporuji návrh Maria Mantovaniho na blokování vstupu státních příslušníků do EU.
A135	There are absolutely incredible cases of a total lack of sensitivity on the part of our European Union as regards persecuted Iraqis.	V souvislosti s pronásledovanými Iráčany existují absolutně neuvěřitelné případy naprosto necitlivého přístupu ze strany Evropské unie.
A136	The EU absolutely must pursue the policy begun in 2005.	EU musí rozhodně pokračovat v politice, kterou započala počátkem roku 2005.
A137	The African Union should step up its political and military activities to protect people and create the conditions necessary for the absolutely essential humanitarian aid to be provided by the UN and the EU.	Africká unie by měla zvýšit svoje politické a vojenské aktivity, aby ochránila obyvatelstvo a vytvořila podmínky pro poskytnutí naprosto nevyhnutelné humanitární pomoci ze strany OSN a EU.
A138	You are absolutely right, Mr Markov.	Máte naprosto pravdu, pane Markove.
A139	The inclusion of employees is absolutely essential.	Účast zaměstnanců je naprosto zásadní.

A140	I absolutely reject one particular theory which exists in the EU.	Naprost odmítám jednu zvláštní teorii, s níž se v EU setkáváme.
A141	I am absolutely delighted that you are a hero today and that you have placed such importance on the challenge of climate change and also on the need to act now.	Mám obrovskou radost, že jste dnes tady přítomen a že jste položil takový důraz na důležitost výzvy v otázce změny klimatu, a také na nutnost přejít už k činům.
A142	This serves absolutely no purpose and is also harmful to European construction.	To nemá vůbec žádný smysl, a zároveň to poškozuje evropský projekt.
A143	It really is a precondition for establishing Europe-wide markets which are absolutely necessary and the stated aim of the Treaty.	Je spíše nezbytným předpokladem pro vytvoření celoevropských trhů, které jsou velmi potřebné a jsou i výslovným cílem smlouvy.
A144	We absolutely must guarantee safety.	Zcela bezpodmínečně musíme zajistit bezpečnost.
A145	Safety is also absolutely guaranteed by the two reports produced by Mr Costa, also with great dedication.	Bezpečnost je také důsledně zaručena dvěma zprávami zpracovanými panem Costou, který rovněž pracoval s oddaností věci.
A146	This is all very well, but all rolling stock absolutely has to be in decent condition.	To všechno je v pořádku, je ale zcela nezbytné, aby veškerá kolejová vozidla byla v přijatelném stavu.
A147	I am absolutely sure that the text to be submitted for your approval tomorrow will provide genuine legal security in the industry.	Jsem si zcela jista, že text, který vám bude zítra předložen ke schválení, přinese průmyslu skutečnou právní jistotu.
A148	I am absolutely certain that we, the European Parliament, are in no position to remain silent in view of these events.	Jsem si naprost jistá, že my, Evropský parlament, nemůžeme k těmto událostem mlčet.
A149	We feel it is absolutely right that account should be taken of these aspects and the solutions proposed.	Plně souhlasíme s tím, že k těmto otázkám a navrženým řešením je třeba přihlížet.
A150	Please let us reopen the debate and make absolutely sure who is right.	Vraťme se prosím k diskusi a dokonale se ujistíme, na čí straně je pravda.
150 occurrences	100.00%	100.00%