University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

Faculty of Education

Department of English Studies

Bachelor thesis

Determiners used with proper nouns in contemporary English

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Poděkování

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Anotace

Bakalářská práce „Užití členů u vlastních jmen v současné angličtině" bude zkoumat gramatickou kategorii určenosti se zaměřením na determinaci u vlastních jmen. Pokusí se zmapovat základní teoretické přístupy k určenosti a vymezí prostředky determinace u různých skupin vlastních jmen. Cílem práce bude prozkoumat sémantické, etymologické a jiné faktory, podílející se na pravidlech pro užívání členu u jednotlivých skupin vlastních jmen. V práci budou okomentovány jednotlivé případy vlastních jmen s různou determinací. Nedílnou součástí práce bude analýza četných výjimek.

Abstract:

The Bachelor Thesis "*Determiners used with proper nouns in contemporary English*" will research grammatical category of definiteness which focuses on determination of Proper nouns. It will attempt to chart basic theoretical approaches for definiteness and it will qualify means of determination of variety groups of proper nouns. The aim of the thesis will be to research semantic, etymological and another factors participating in rules for using articles with individual groups of proper nouns. Analysis of numerous exceptions will be a parcel part of the thesis.

Table of contents

Introduction

When I was thinking about a topic for my bachelor thesis I got an idea to write something cohering with English grammar, because it is my hobby. Nevertheless, I had difficulty to devise a topic connected with English grammar. I only got an idea about topic, connected with grammatical chapter involving articles. So, I asked my supervisor Ludmila Zemková for advice and her suggestion sounded "Determiners used with proper nouns in contemporary English".

My thesis consists of two parts - theoretic part and practical part. In the first part, which is the theoretic part, I describe my topic in a theoretic way. As I write my thesis about usage of determiners with proper nouns in contemporary English, I briefly characterize both, determiners and proper nouns in general in the first two chapters of the theoretic part.

The third chapter of my Bachelor thesis deals with the usage of determiners with proper nouns. I divided it into five subchapters.

The first subchapter is about personal names which are mostly not preceded by any article. I also mention exceptions when we use the definite article in cases where we would not normally add the definite article before a personal name.

The second subchapter is the largest one and it studies the usage of determiners before "Geographical names".

I called the third subchapter "Man-made features" because it is about features created by people. This subchapter contains the usage of determiners before the features which are situated in each city or town, like buildings, streets, parks, etc.

The shortest subchapter named "Temporal names" is about the usage of determiners with names of days, months and holidays.

In the last subchapters, there are mentioned categories of names which are not contained in the previous subchapters, for example names of languages, magazines, languages, etc.

The practical part of my Bachelor thesis studies occurrence of determiners before proper nouns in British newspaper.

Determiners

1.1. General characteristics

Determiners are function words which are used for specifying the reference of a noun.[1] The determiner has a key function in the structure of the noun phrase. When we give a determiner before a noun, it forms a construction a at the noun phrase level.[2]

We distinguish three classes of determiners set up on the basis of their position in the noun phrase in relation to each other: central determiners (*the, a, this*), pre-determiners (e.g. *half, all, double*), and post determiners (e. g. *seven, many, few)[3]*

1.2. Central determiners

The definite and the indefinite article are the most important and the most common central determiners. We use the term article for the special subcategory of determinatives that provide the most basic expressions of definiteness and indefiniteness.[4] The spoken form of the article depends on the initial sound of the following word.[5]

Each of them has a lot of possibilities of usage. I will mention only a few examples of usage of these articles.

1.2.1. The Definite article

The definite article is the most basic indicator of definiteness.[6] It marks noun phrase as definite which means that it refers to something which can be identified uniquely in the contextual or general knowledge shared by a speaker and hearer.[7] It is compatible with all types of common nouns: count singular, count plural and non-count *(the*

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[1] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 258

[2] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 354

[3] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 89

[4] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 368

[5] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 275

[6] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 368

[7] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 77

ladder/ladder/cement). Ladder with the definite article refers to the individual ladder, ladder without any article refers to set of ladders and cement refers to the quantity of cement.[8]

The definite article specifies that the speaker and the addressee know a thing which they talk about. We use *the* when there is only one of something (***The earth*** *goes around* ***the sun***.). Native speakers always say ***the cinema*** or ***the theatre***. The usage of the definite article is necessary though we do not mean a specific cinema or theatre. We always add *the* before the noun when we mean specific group of people or things (*We took* ***the children*** *to the zoo.* (=a specific group, perhaps speaker´s children.)).[9]

1.2.2. The indefinite article

We use the indefinite article with singular countable nouns. Using of this article narrows down the reference of the following noun to a single member of a class and it often introduces a new specific entity in discourse.[10]

We use it to talk about a particular but unspecified person, thing or event (*You never see a police officer in this part of town*.). Sometimes, we can give it before a singular countable noun instead of one and it refers to one thing, like one. (*We will be in Australia for a year. (or one year)).* We always use indefinite article to talk about a person´s job. (*She was a company director when she retired.).* We also use a/an in number and quantity expressions such as *three times* ***a year***, *half* ***an hour*** or ***a quarter*** *of* ***an hour***.[11]

1.2.3. The other central determiners

There are several other determiners that can occur equally simultaneously with singular countable, plural countable and uncountable nouns. The Demonstratives (*this, that, these, those*, for example *I prefer* ***this*** *picture to* ***that*** *picture),* the possessives (my, our, his, her, e.g. *I admire* ***her*** *house*) the wh-determiners (*which, whose, whichever, whatever, whosever*, e.g. ***Which*** *house do you prefer*?), and negative determiner no (e. g. *He has* ***no*** *car*).[12]

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[8] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 368
[9] Murphy R*., (2004), English Grammar in Use.* Cambridge University Press, page 146
[10] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 260
[11] Hewings M, *(1999), Advanced English in Use.* Cambridge University Press, page 88
[12] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 89

1.3. Pre-determiners

Pre-determiners are determiners which specify nouns in terms of quantity and we also call them quantifiers. They combine with both indefinite and definite noun phrases. In some cases, they can be either followed by of and the definite article (***some of the*** money, ***many of the*** girls) or it is not essential to add "of" with definite article between a quantifier and a noun (***some*** money, ***many*** girls). We distinguish four groups of quantifiers.

All, each and every are called inclusive quantifiers. All refers to the whole of a group and it combines with countable (***all*** *those things*) and uncountable nouns (*all that money*). **Each** (***each*** *part of the book consists of...)* stresses the separate individual and **every** (*every minute of every day*) refer to the individual as a member of a group.

We typically use quantifiers of a large quantity in negative contexts. Quantifier *many* specifies a large quantity with plural countable nouns (*There were not **many** people there.*) and quantifier *much* with plural uncountable nouns (*The girl was not paying **much** attention.*). *Plenty of, a lot of* and *lots of* are another examples of this group of quantifiers which combine with both, uncountable and plural countable nouns.[13]

Quantifier *some* identifies moderate or small quantity and we use it with uncountable and plural countable nouns (***Some*** *performance curves will be presented*). Some may also exist with singular countable nouns (*This is **some** horse)* and it occurs as an approximating adverb before numerals (***Some*** *18 percent of managing directors.)*

Any and *either*, quantifiers of arbitrary member or amount have usually usage in negative or interrogative contexts. Any refers to an arbitrary member of a group or amount. We use it with both, countable and uncountable nouns (*There aren´t **any** women*.).[14]

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[13] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 275

[14] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 276

1.4. Post-determiners

Post-determiners follow pre-determiners or central determiners. But they precede any adjectives and other pre-modifying items. Post-determines include cardinal numerals, ordinal and general numerals, closed-class quantifiers and open-class quantifiers.[15]

The cardinal numerals have a primary use as determinatives but they are used secondarily in a way that they inflect for number and hence belong in the noun category: *They set off in **threes**, I enrolled in their **hundreds***.[16]

The ordinal numerals have one-for-one relation with the cardinals: first/one, second/two, third/three. They co-occur with countable nouns and precede any cardinal numbers in the noun phrase: *the first two days, another three weeks*. The general numerals include items like next, last, past, (an)other, further which resemble cardinal numerals grammatically and semantically.[17]

The closed-system quantifiers are many *(There are too **many** mistakes in your essay)*, few *(He is a man of **few** words), little*, and *several.* We also rank the comparatives of these words into this group of quantifiers (*many = **more, most**; few = **fewer, fewest**; little = **less, least***). There is also a semantic difference. If there is no article before the words few and little, these words have a negative meaning. In case there is the indefinite article before them, they are positive (or at least neutral) terms.

Open-class quantifiers constitute three groups according to their patterning with noun classes. They consist of heads with an of-phrase as post-modification. Words like number (*A large **number of people***)**,** deal (*a great **deal of money***), lot (*a **lot of money***) are considered as open-class quantifiers. We include them here after closed-system quantifiers because we want to draw attention to semantic and syntactic similarities between the two classes.[18]

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[15] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 261

[16] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 385

[17] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 262

[18] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 283 - 284

2. **Proper nouns**

2.1. **General characteristic**

Proper nouns are names of specific people (*Shakespeare*), places (*Milwaukee*), months (*September*), days (*Thursday*), festivals (*Christmas*), magazines (*Vogue*) and etc. Proper nouns usually have unique denotation and they are usually written with capital letters. The usage of initial capital letters of words is more widespread in English than in many other languages.[19]

Many proper nouns are made up of ordinary lexical words. These words have the lexical meaning which does not, but describe the phenomena they refer to. The word *Drumbeat* and the noun phrases *The Japan Current* and the *National Australia Bank* are examples of this type of proper nouns.[20]

2.2. **Proper names**

Proper names are expressions which have been conventionally adopted as the name of a particular entity or a collection of entities. *The Hebrides* belongs to typical examples which are considered as the cases of plurals which belong to a collection of entities. Further, they include the names of particular persons or animals, places, institutions and historical events.[21]

Most proper names in their primary use are noun phrases consisting of more words which form clauses. The titles of written works, movies, TV programmes allow a wider range of forms that include main clauses and subordinate interrogatives.[22]

We can distinguish weak and strong proper names. Strong proper names are names without determiner, for example *Kim* or *New York*. Names which follow the definite article like *the Thames* or *the Bronx* are known as weak proper names. In some cases the definite article is optional so the word can be called either strong or weak proper noun, for instance *Gambia* or *the Gambia*.[23]

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[19] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 288
[20] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 245
[21] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 515 - 516
[22] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 516
[23] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 517

2.3. Comparison with proper names

We characterize proper nouns as word-level units which belong to the category noun. While *Clinton* and *Zealand* are proper nouns, *New Zealand* is a proper name. America is another typical example of comparisons of proper nouns and proper names. America belongs to a group of proper nouns, but *The United States of America* is a proper name. Neither *The United States* nor the words *The United* and *States* on their own are considered as proper nouns.

Proper nouns often function as heads of proper names but not all the time. The heads of proper names like *The United States of America, the Leeward Island, the University of Manchester*, are common nouns.[24]

3. Determiners with proper nouns

3.1. Personal names

3.1.1. Without article

Personal names normally occur without article, it does not matter whether they are accompanied by title or not. The name itself may consist of given name, the surname or both given name and surname together.

Given name signifies the first name of the full name of a person. We can call it Christian name as well, for example *Margaret, Jack* etc. By surname, we mean family name which is the last name of the full name of a person, for instance *Smith, Wilson,* etc. As I have already mentioned, the full name consists of both given name and family name, e. g. *Jack Wilson*.

A possibility of two given names exists as well, for example ***Margaret Jane Smith.*** In a case of one or more given names, there is also possible to reduce them to initials, e. g. ***M. J. Smith, J. Wilson***. However, in American English, we normally reduce only the middle name to initial, for example *Charles **R**. Maguire.*[25]

Various attributes, such as little, poor, old, young, dear, honest, etc., sometimes precede personal names For instance: ***little Emily, poor Charles***, etc. In case there is a

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[24] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 516

[25] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 291

situation that we see twice one name preceded by two various attributes without an article, like **young Jolyon** and **old Jolyon**, we talk about two persons who have the same name but different attributes. If there were the definite articles before the words young and old, it would indicate one person named Jolyon in two different ages.[26]

Names may be also prefaced by a title. The normal titles like Mr., Ms., Mrs., Miss, Master indicate sex and in some cases also marital or maturity status. It is also possible to add a courtesy title which marks a person´s status. There are several kinds of status: academic status (*Dr, Professor*); judicial office (*Judge*); political office (*President, Senator, Governor, Councillor*); royal and aristocratic office or rank (*King, Queen, Prince, Lord, Emperor, Count*, etc.); military and police rank (*Captain, Admiral, Private, Inspector)* and clerical office (*Pope, Archbishop, Sister*).[27] Some more examples:

Mr and Mrs Johnson	General MacArthur
Ms Waterhouse	Professor Smith
Dr Brown	Cardinal Spellman
Private Walker	Captain O´Connor
Inspector Harris	Chancellor Brandt
Lord Nelson	Governor Rockfeller
Lady Churchill	Judge Fox[28]

However, it is essential to stress that we must use the definite articles in cases of titular names of persons and deities: *the Marquis of Salisbury, the King of Sweden, the President of General Motors, the Reverend John Fox, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Queen, the Prince Edward, the Archduke Ferdinand, the God of Israel, the Buddha, the Lord of Hosts.*[29]

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[26] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[27] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 519
[28] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 291
[29] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 89

3.1.2. Determination of personal names

We do not usually use personal names with determination. Nevertheless, there exist exceptions when even personal names are foregone with the definite article.

The use of articles with personal names serves for denoting a set of bearers of the name. For example: ***The Mary** that you met yesterday is my fiancée*. In this case the speaker means one particular Mary. The definite article is found before a personal name when we want to distinguish a concrete person, e.g. a person who carries the same name like a famous person. For instance: *Was **it the Bill Gates** he was talking about?* Personal names in plural, mostly names of families, always stand with the definite article. For example: *Shall we wait **the Smiths**?* We also make use of the definite article to denote a set of manifestations of the bearer of the name. For instance: ***The young Isaac Newton** showed no signs of genius*. This sentence refers to Newton´s youth.[30]

The indefinite article may occur with names, respectively surnames because every family has a lot of members. For example: *He does not look like **a Burton.*** This sentence states that someone does not look like a member of Burton family. Another usage of the indefinite article with personal name expresses "a person having a certain name", as for instance: ***A Mr. March** to see you*. This short sentence says that the speaker does not know Mr. March. When using the definite article with personal names, it also describes personal qualities, e.g. *He is not **a Mozart**.* It means that a person we talk about does not compose as good music as Mozart.[31] The indefinite article is also used for denoting a set of products created by the bearer of the name. For example: *The gallery has acquired **a new Rembrandt***. This sentence deals with a new picture made by Rembrandt.[32]

3.2. Geographical names

We do not usually bring bear to any article with names of various places. By these places, we mean continents, countries, counties, states, islands, cities, towns, lakes, rivers, seas, oceans, mountains, etc. However, each of these categories has exceptions which are preceded by the definite article.

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[30] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 521
[31] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[32] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 521

3.2.1. Continents, countries, counties, states

Words which carry meaning as names of continents are never foregone with articles. The words *Europe, Asia, Africa*, *Australia, South America, North America* serve as typical examples of these words. The same rule applies for names of continents with modification, for instance *Central Europe, Asia Minor* and *Latin America*. Nevertheless, there are exceptions such as *Antarctic* and *Arctic* which must be written with the definite article. So, we always write *the Antarctic* and *the Arctic*.[33]

Names of countries, counties and states, such as *England, Brazil, Scotland, Canada, Scotland, Staffordshire* and *Arkansas* are mostly used without article as well. Neither in this case, pre-modifying adjective influences determination, e.g. *Elizabethan England, modern Brazil, West Scotland, French Canada, industrial Staffordshire, Northern Arkansas*. However, there is the exceptional usage of the definite article for certain countries and regions, for instance *the Argentine*. Nevertheless, it is more common when we write the word Argentine without the definite article. Other examples of that usage are *the Crimea, the Puttjab, the Ruhr, the Soar and the Sahara.* Like *(the) Argentine* I have already mentioned, there are the other example of states where the definite article can precede names of places, but we can write them without determination as well, for example *(the) Sinai, (the) Sudan, (the) Ukraine, (the) Yemen*, etc.[34] The names of countries indicating the unions and the names of the countries in plural, however, are used with the definite article, as for instance *the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, the United States of America.*[35]

3.2.2. Nationality nouns

Nationality nouns refer to the people of a nationality, an ethnic group and etc. We sometimes make use of the definite article in plural meaning of nationality nouns, for instance the Chinese, the English.

We can put "the" with nationality adjectives that end –ch or –sh. The meaning is the people of that country (*the French, the English)*. *The French* *are famous for their food*. The meaning of that sentence is that people of France are famous for their food. We cannot say a French or an English. If we want to use the indefinite article we must say for example a Frenchman, an Englishwoman and etc.

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[33] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[34] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 293
[35] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

We also find the definite article with nationality words which end in –ese, for example ***the Chinese, the Sudanese, the Japanese.*** These words can be also used with the indefinite article in singular (***a Chinese, a Sudanese***). This rule applies for nationality words which end –ss (***the Swiss, a Swiss).*** *The Swiss* means the people of Switzerland and *a Swiss* identifies a person living in Switzerland.

With other nationalities when the plural ends in –s (***Mexicans, Italians, Turks***) we do not place articles before plurals.[36]

There are also cases of contemporary English when we can write a nationality word of one nationality in two ways. For example a word which names the people of Wales. The plural form can be written either *The Welsh* or *Welshmen*. When we use this nationality word in a generic reference we are always obligated to write its plural form with the definite article before the word Welsh (***The Welsh*** *are fond of singing*). We can also use the form Welshmen, but in this case we must omit the definite article. (***Welshmen*** *are fond of singing*). Welshmen can be also replaced by Welsh people if it is not the word of masculine. These two sentences express the fondness of the Welsh for singing. However, we can also express the meaning of the people of Welsh by the word Welshmen with the definite article. When we use this expression we mean a specific group of Welshmen (***The Welshmen*** *are fond of singing*. = the Welshmen I know).[37]

Some nationalities have a special noun which is different from the adjective. We always place "the" in front of them, for instance Spain = *the Spaniards*; Sweden = *the Swedes*; Scotland = *the Scots*; Denmark = *the Danes*; Finland = *the Finns*; Turkey = *the Turks*; Poland = *the Poles*.[38]

In the following section, there are specimens of various kinds of words for people and nationality

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[36] Murphy R*., (2004), English Grammar in Use.* Cambridge University Press, page 156
[37] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 284
[38] Internet: http://eoimarbellaenglish.wikispaces.com/file/view/ADJECTIVES+AS+NOUNSWeb.pdf

Tabulka č. 1. (Quirk 1991: 92)

Table 5.34

	I (and II where relevant)	III	IV	V
China	Chinese	a Chinese (citizen)	Chinese (people)	the Chinese
Japan	Japanese	a Japanese (N)	Japanese (Ns)	the Japanese
Portugal	Portuguese	a Portuguese (N)	Portuguese (Ns)	the Portuguese
Vietnam	Vietnamese	a Vietnamese (N)	Vietnamese (Ns)	the Vietnamese
Switzerland	Swiss	a Swiss (N)	Swiss (Ns)	the Swiss
Britain	British	a British (N)	British (Ns)	the British
England	English	an Englishman	Englishmen	the English
Ireland	Irish	an Irishman	Irishmen	the Irish
Wales	Welsh	a Welshman	Welshmen	the Welsh
France	French	a Frenchman	Frenchmen	the French
Holland the Netherlands	Dutch	a Dutchman	Dutchmen	the Dutch
Scotland	Scots	a Scotsman	Scotsmen	the Scots
Denmark	Danish	a Dane	Danes	the Danish
Sweden	Swedish	a Swede	Swedes	the Swedish
Finland	Finnish	a Finn	Finns	the Finnish
Poland	Polish	a Pole	Poles	the Polish
Spain	Spanish	a Spaniard	Spaniards	the Spanish

3.2.3. Cities, towns, islands

The names of cities and towns, like *Boston, Brussels, New York and Rome* are mostly used without article. They can be modified as well, for example *downtown Boston, ancient Roma, central Brussels and suburban New York*.

The exceptional article must be given before the name Hague (*the Hague).* We also use the definite article in certain districts of large cities, for instance *the Bronx, the East/West End (of London).*[39]

We use either definite or zero article with the Isles. If the Isles have singular form we never use determination, for example *Crete, Cuba, Sicily*, etc. In case the Isles have a plural form, we always place the definite article before words, for example *the Philippines, the Canaries (the Canary Islands), the Shetlands*, etc.[40]

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[39] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 293

[40] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

3.2.4. Lakes, rivers, oceans and seas

Names of lakes are prefaced with definite article if there is an absence of the indication "lake". We never put "the" before the names of lakes, such as *Silver Lake, Lake Michigan, Lake Nicaragua, Loch Ness, Ullswater. Ladoga* is a lake which is always written without article no matter how it is written. The written form of this lake can be either Ladoga or Lake Ladoga and we always leave the article out. Otherwise names of lakes are always preceded with the definite article if the indication "lake" misses. For example: *the Baikal*. Nevertheless, there are exceptions with the definite article in spite of the fact, that the indication "lake" is not absent. For example**:** *the Great Salt Lake***.**[41]

We always have to add the definite article before names of rivers, for example *the Avon, the Danube, the Euphrates, the Potomac, the Rhine.* The word river can be sometimes inserted after the definite article, e. g. *the River Avon*. However, there are rivers when the word river must follow the name of the river e. g. *the Potomac River.*

Seas and oceans are always preceded with the definite article. It does not matter on the writing style of oceans, if they are written with the word ocean or not, for example *the Pacific (ocean), the Atlantic (ocean),* etc**.** The same rule coheres with seas, for instance *the Baltic (sea), the Kattegat*.[42]

3.2.5. Mountains and mountain range

Names of mountains have the same rules as names of lakes. They never follow the definite article, for instance *Mount Everest, Mont Blanc, Ben Nevis, (Mount) Snowdown, Vesuvius, Aconcaqua,* etc. There is also a rule that the descriptor mostly precedes the proper noun and there are also exceptions when the descriptor follows the proper noun, e.g. *Pikes Peak*.[43]

However, the rules of contemporary English say that names of mountain ranges, like *the Rocky Mountains (the Rockies), the Andes, the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Giant Mountains*, must always follow the definite article.[44]

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[41] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 293
[42] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 296
[43] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 293
[44] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

As I have already mentioned, names of mountains are not prefaced by the definite article. Nevertheless, there exist some exceptions where we must add the definite article before a name. The contemporary English regards Swiss Alpine peaks, such as **the Eiger, the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn** as the examples of this usage.[45]

3.2.6. Other geographical features of coastline

The geographical features I will mention in this subhead are straits, canals, and the other cases I have not mentioned so far.

Names of straits always stand with the definite article, for example **The Behring Straits, the Bosporus, the Dardanelles**. We must follow the same rule with canals, like **the English Channel** or **the Suez Canal**.

All proper nouns which follow the form –of have the definite article automatically: **the City of New York, the Cape of Good Hope, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Gibraltar, the Straits of Dover, , the Lake of Geneva, the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Man.** The definite article occurs in the noun phrase **the Bay of Biscay** as well.[46] However, when we do not have the form –of in the noun phrase like this, we omit the definite article, for example **Hudson Bay, Long Island**.[47]

3.2.7. Determination on geographical names

Even geographical names have some cases when names must follow the definite article in spite of the fact that we do not normally use any article before them. They have the definite article if they are modified by the restrictive attribute. When they have the descriptive attribute which censure a specific quality of a bearer we always add the indefinite article before them.[48]

*This is not **the Paris I used to know***. In this example we distinguish between a previous manifestation of Paris and a current manifestation of Paris.[49] In the example of the sentence **the London *I am talking about*** we mean a certain part of London we talk about.

[45] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 518

[46] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 89

[47] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

[48] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

[49] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 521

The example of the usage of the indefinite article with geographical names of these types can be *the vision of **a new Canada***.[50] Example*: This is **a United States** I prefer to forget*, shows that in this use a normally plural name can head a singular noun phrase – when we are concerned with a single manifestation.[51]

3.3. Man-made features

We use the term man-made features in order to indicate parts of cities and towns such as roads (***Picadilly circus***), streets (***Madison Avenue, Park Lane***), squares (***Times Square***), buildings (***Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Canterbury Cathedral, Magdalen College, Scotland Yard***), airports (***Kennedy Airport***), parks (***Hyde Park, Clapham Common***) and gardens (***Kew Gardens***). We often omit the definite article before names of these features. However, there are many exceptions, especially related with buildings.[52]

In London, there exist two buildings named ***the Albert Hall*** and ***the Mansion House.***

Another exception, regarding the usage of the definite article before buildings, involves universities. Names of universities have two types of written forms and they consist of a place-name and the word university. The descriptor, which is the name of the university, can be either the last word of the noun phrase or before the word university. The definite article is added when we give the descriptor on the last position, for example ***the University of London***.[53]

We are obligated to use the definite article before the names of buildings, like hotels (***the Sheraton Hotel),*** restaurants (***The Bombay Restaurant***), theatres (***the Palace Theatre***), cinemas (***the Odeon***), museums *(**the Guggenheim museum**)*, galleries (***the Hayward Gallery),*** and world-famous buildings (***the White House, the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower***).[54] We place the definite articles before names of hospitals *(**the Middlesex)*** and libraries (***the Hunsington***) as well.[55]

The definite article can exceptionally occur with roads and streets. In London, there are streets named ***the Mall*** and ***the Strand.*** In connection with the word Road, the definite

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[50] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[51] Huddleston, R. and Pullum, G.K. (2002) *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, page 521
[52] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 294
[53] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 294
[54] Murphy R.*, (2004), English Grammar in Use.* Cambridge University Press, page 156
[55] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Languag,* page 89

article can exist in the name of some thoroughfares, for instance *the Egware Road, the Old Kent Road.* [56]

As I have already mentioned, we do not usually put the definite article with names of parks. Nevertheless, even in this group we can find exceptions of the use of the definite article, for example *the Snowdonia National Park.*[57]

It is our must-do obligation to place the definite article before names of ships as well. I will state *the Queen Marry, the Mayflower* and *the Spirit of St. Louis* as examples of this usage.[58]

The usage of the definite article before names of buildings depends on a kind of name of a specific building. If a building carries a name according to a famous person we do not make use of the definite article, for example *Buckingham Palace.* If a building is preceded by adjective which is not a name, we always put the definite article before it, for instance *the Royal Palace.* The same rule coheres with some shops, restaurants, banks. If they carry names after people who own them we do not use the definite article and moreover these buildings end in –s or ´s, for example *Lloyds Bank, Brown´s Restaurant,* etc.**[59]**

3.4. Temporal names

Temporal names are not preceded by article when we use them to refer to the period as a recurrent item in the Calendar. Festivals, religious periods, months, days of the week etc. belong to the group of Temporal names.

There are a few examples of names of festivals and religious period: *Christmas (day), Independence Day, Easter (Sunday), Good Friday, New Year, New Year´s Day, New Year´s Eve, Ramadan*, etc.

In comparison with Czech language, the rules of contemporary English require us to write days of the week (*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday...)* and months (*January, February, March*...) with initial capital letter. Apart from some exceptional cases we do not usually add any article before these names.[60]

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[56] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 294
[57] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[58] Quirk, R. (1991), *A Students Grammar of the English Language,* page 89
[59] Murphy R*., (2004), English Grammar in Use.* Cambridge University Press, page 156
[60] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 292

In case of a phrase which identifies a certain day after or before given time in the past or future the noun phrase consist of the preposition, the definite article, words next or last and a day, for instance *on **the day** before yesterday, on **the next day***. In cases like these we can omit a preposition (*We **met the day** of the conference.*).[61] The days of the week also occur with the indefinite article. It means that we do not refer to a particular day of a week, e.g. *He left on **a Sunday***. In this case we do not mean any specific Sunday.

While we can use the days of the week in plural (*I hate **Mondays***) months does not have plural. We cannot write *I hate **Januaries***. [62]

3.5. Determination of different groups of proper nouns

In this chapter, I will focus on proper nouns I have not mentioned so far in the previous chapters. This chapter contains the names of languages, elements of politics, meals, illnesses, elements of religion, companies, historical events, newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

We do not often find the determiners before names of languages. We say: *he is learning **English (French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Czech**...*). However, there are cases when the definite article must be used before the languages: **translated from *the Swedish*** or **what is *the English* for**...? Moreover in comparison with Czech language, in contemporary English we are obligated to use capital letters when writing names of languages. [63]

We never use any article while talking about any kind of meal. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea: these are examples of these words of meal. We say: *Stay to **tea**. When is **lunch** served*? [64]

Another group of proper nouns I focus on in this chapter coheres with religion. Every religion is always used without articles, for instance ***Buddhism***. However, followers of particular religions are always preceded with the indefinite article, as for instance ***a Buddhist***. This word is not preceded by any article when using in plural. We use religions concepts, such as ***God, Heaven*** or ***Hell*** without determination. However, the word Devil belongs to the

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[61] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 692 - 693

[62] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 292

[63] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

[64] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

group of exceptions as far as religions concepts. We are always obligated to add the definite article before this word, ***the Devil.***[65]

It is also possible to classify names of illnesses to a group of proper nouns without any article. We ask: Have you ever had ***scarlet fever (whooping-cough, measles, diphtheria, polio, chicken-pox, tuberculosis***, etc.)? However, for nouns such as **to have** *a headache, a **toothache, a cold,*** we must use the indefinite article before the names of illnesses. We can say either **catch** *a cold* or *catch **cold***.[66]

In cases of bodies with a unique public function, such as ***Congress***, ***Parliament*** we never write the definite article. Furthermore, political parties and members of political parties must be preceded with both the definite article and the indefinite article as well. It is must-do obligation to write the definite article before a name of a political party, as for instance ***the Labour party***. As regards members of political parties, we place the definite article when we talk about member of a political party in plural, for example ***the Democrats***. But if we talk about a member of a political party in singular, the word is prefaced by the indefinite article, for instance ***a Republican***. This word can be preceded by the definite article as well in singular.[67]

I would like to include into this chapter parts of the Government. This group of proper nouns is always preceded by the definite article. I would like to mention ***the Department of Transport, the Transport Secretary*** and ***the Justice Department*** as examples of this group. [68]

The other group of proper nouns which deserves to me mentioned identifies various world-known organizations. We are mostly obligated to put "the" before their names as for instance ***the European Union, the Ku Klux Klan***, etc. [69]

The other group of proper nouns which ought to be preceded with the definite article name historical events, such as ***the Civil War*** and ***the Industrial Revolution***. However, in case of world wars, we have to possibilities of writing. When the numeral is on the first position of the noun phrase, it is preceded by the definite article, ***the First World War***. It is possible to express this event by roman numerals on the last position. In this case we do not have to place the definite article before the name of the event, ***World War I***. The same rule

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[65] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 245
[66] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia
[67] Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S. and E. Finegan (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman, page 245 – 246
[68] The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016
[69] The International New York Times, 28 January 2016

applies to *the Second World War* (*World War II.)* and to the other events which contain a numeral in their name. [70]

A group of large world-known companies should be mentioned as well. Names of these companies are not preceded with the definite article, for example *Microsoft, Apple, Google*, etc. [71]

We always place the definite article before names of newspapers, but names of magazines usually exist without determination. The words *The Observer, The New York Times, The Economist, The Providence Journal* and *The London Review of the Books* serve as examples of the use of the definite article before the names of newspapers. In comparison with the other proper nouns, the definite article is spelt with capital letter while using with names of newspaper.

On the other hand, magazines and periodical mostly occur without article, for instance *Time, Punch, English Language Teaching Journal, New Scientist, Scientific American*. [72] However *The Word* and *The Lancet* are medical magazines which have the definite article as a part of their names, so we consider them as exceptions.[73]

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[70] http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/nounproper.html
[71] The International New York Times, 28 January 2016
[72] Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language.* Longman, page 297
[73] Dušková, L. (2006) *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny.* Praha: Academia

4. Conclusion

The main aim of the theoretical part of this Bachelor thesis was to clarify the issue of the usage of determiners with proper nouns. I researched semantic, etymological and another factors participating in rules for using articles with individual groups of proper nouns.

This topic is very difficult because it is impossible to understand automatically when to use the determiner or no determiner. We could say that all names are the same. In spite of this fact, some groups of proper nouns are preceded by the determiner and some of them aren´t. It is needful to study it carefully, remember cases which are preceded by the determiner and which aren´t. We also mustn´t forget cases when we can use both no determiner and the determiner as well (*Ukraine, the Ukraine*). Sometimes it depends on written form. A group of lakes could be a good example for explaining it. When we omit the word lake and a specific lake is expressed only by its name, it is preceded with "the" (*the Baikal*). When a name of a lake is preceded by the word lake, we do not add the definite article (*Lake Baikal*). What influences the use of the determiner is writing of of-phrase. It causes that we use the determiner in cases when we would not use if is it were written without –of (*the University of Charles, Charles University*).

It is worth mentioning the use of determination in cases when we do not normally use the article before them. In my opinion it is very interesting to use determiners before personal names (*a Mozart, the Marry*) or names of cities and countries, like *the London, a new Canada*. What makes it more fascinating is that names like these have completely different meaning with articles than without articles. These words without article simply name a person, city or country. But when we add the determiner before them, it completely changes a meaning. *A Mozart* identifies a person who is as good musician as Mozart. *The London* means a certain part of London.

In conclusion I can say that the time I spent with writing of the theoretical part of my Bachelor thesis helped me to deepen knowledge of the use determiners with proper nouns. I am grateful for it because to difer the usage of articles and in my opinion it is one of the most difficult topics of English grammar. Moreover, I can say that I learnt new things while writing this thesis.

II. Practical part

A practical part of my Bachelor thesis focuses on the presence of determiners before proper nouns in current newsprint. Each type of newsprint consists of several branches of everyday life such as business, sport, fashion, culture, etc.

I used two sources of newsprint which I bought. One of them is named The Daily Telegraph which is a British daily morning English-language broadsheet newspaper, published in London. The second of them is named The International New York Times which is international daily newspaper written in English language. Furthermore, I used electronic versions of British magazines named Daily Mail and Daily Mirror.

Presence of determiners with proper nouns is the subject of research in articles of each branch of everyday life in newspaper I have mentioned. The practical part of my Bachelor thesis contains examples which occur in articles I read and afterwards there are resumes to each of sections I chose where I comment the usage. I a chapter "My findings" I mentioned examples of unusual use of determiners before proper nouns.

The sections I chose were connected with sport, travelling and business. I also used the internet source www.google.com in order to find out meaning of several noun phrases I found while reading articles of these newspapers.

1. Determiners with proper nouns in newspaper

1.1. Business

1.1.1. Names without determination

Personal names

John Sauven

Peter Atherton

Martin Wheatley

Christine Tacon

Charles Gurassa

Tracey Mcdermott

Jeremy Marshall

Simon Webley

Peter Noll

 (The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

Nancy Utley

Stephen Gilula

David Cameron

Oswald Clint

Greg Gimbert

Jim Hoak

Jean-Claude Trichet

Ross McEwan

Sean Barrett

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

Mr Bailey

Ms Tacon

Mr Levy

Mr McLoughlin

Lord Burns

Lord Attenborough

Chancellor George Osborn

(The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

Names of cities and states

China

Indonesia

Latin America

Nigeria

Azerbaijan

Hong Kong

Singapore

Frankfurt

Canada

Britain

Australia

(Daily Telegraph, 7 February 2016)

Names of companies

De Beers

Zurich Insurance

JP Morgan Chase

Hickman & Rose

Glencore

Rio Tinto

Tesco

Penna Consulting

(Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

Apple

Google

Weinstein Company

Microsoft

Virtu Financial Capital Markets

Knight Capital Group

Citigroup

Credit Suisse

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

1.1.2. Names with determination

The Financial Reporting Council

The Davies Commission

The Serious Fraud Office

The Transport Secretary

The Prudential Regulatory Authority

The Government

The International Monetary Fund

The European Commission

The Australian Securities

The Bank of England

The Groceries Code Adjudicator

The British Transport Association

The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority

The Australian Stock exchange

The Institute of Business Ethics

(The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

The Serious Fraud Office

The Ku Klux Klan

The Labour party

The Sinn Fein party

The Royal Bank of Scotland

The Spanish Supreme Court

The Federal Reserve

The Weinstein Company

The United States Justice Department

The European Union

The Gulf of Mexico

The Central Bank of Ireland

The Middle East

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

1.1.3. Summary

Personal names without determiners are very common in business section. What is typical is that they are often preceded by a title. When you read it, you notice that every personal name occurs as a full name only once. When a personal name is mentioned for the first time in an article it is written in a full form. Afterwards when it is mentioned repeatedly, every personal name is expressed by a title and surname (Mr Bailey, Ms Tacon) and it is never prefaced by any determiner as well.

As far as proper nouns without determiners names of cities, states and continents appear in articles of Business section in a quite great number. What is more common than geographical names is presence of names of large companies. Most of them are companies which provide financial services such as *JP Morgan Chase, Credit Suisse, Citigroup*, etc. Otherwise, I involved into this group companies which have nothing common with financial services, but I cited them as an example of companies which are not preceded with the definite article (*Tesco, Google, Rio Tinto).*

Business section is full of noun phrases which are preceded with the definite article. Those are proper names I would complexly call as elements of politics. I would like to mention *the Sinn Fein, the Labour Party, The Government* as examples. Business sections are full of various organizations which are mostly prefaced by the definite article, for example *the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, the Institute of Business Ethics*, etc. Nevertheless, not all organisations must be written with the definite article. An organisation named Greenpeace could be mentioned as a typical example of an organization without determination.

Moreover, noun phrases which indicate parts or departments of government occur in business section as well. We must put "the" before their names. I will use here *the Transport Secretary, the United States Justice Department* and *the Serious Fraud Office* as examples.

I also found there two cases of giving the definite article before proper nouns when it is connected with the word bank. Specifically, when a noun phrase is written with –of and the word bank is on the first position. I usually saw these names of banks being preceded with the definite article (*the Bank of England, the Central Bank of England*, etc.). However, when –of

was followed by the word America, the noun phrase was not preceded by the definite article (*Bank of America*).

1.2. Sport

1.2.1. Names without determination

Personal names

Joe Allen

Mark Hughes

Peter Crouch

Jordan Henderson

Eddie Jones

Courtney Lawes

Seamus Coleman

(The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

Martin Laurendeau

Pete Sampras

Johanna Konta

Bruno Soares

Bernard Tomic

John Lloyd

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

Geographical names

Liverpool

England

Australia

South Africa

India

London

Johannesburgh

Russia

Sri Lanka

Melbourne

Tokyo

Japan

Eastern Europe

Central Asia

China

Names with determination

The Britania Stadium

The Barcelona forward

The Uruguay International

The Premier League

The Calcutta Cup

The World Cup

The Pennyhill Park

The Austrian

The Kremlin

The Spaniard

The South Africans

The Rugby Football Union

The Australian Stock Exchange

The Prudential Regulatory Authority

The Martinez era

The Murrays

The Australian open

The Canadian Davis Cup captain

The current Michael Jordan

The New York Times

The Tour de France

The Tennis Integrity Unit

The Association of Athletics Federation

The Tennis Integrity Unit

The Scilly Isles

The Indian Premiere League

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

1.2.2. Summary of presence of determiners with proper nouns

Researching of presence of determiners with proper nouns seemed to me very easy. Articles with sport theme are full of personal names which are mostly used without determiner. Sport sections are also full of geographical names, mainly names of cities and countries which are not preceded with any determiner as well if they serve as a noun with their classical meaning.

However, I managed to find examples of proper nouns with determiners in sport section in spite of the fact I hardly saw a presence of these types of proper nouns while reading it. What is typical for each sport is a trophy for winner which is always preceded with the definite article. I used *the World Cup* and *the Calcutta Cup* as examples. If we read about a kind of sport, it is logical that there is mentioned a tournament which is typical for a specific sport. Every specific tournament is prefaced by the definite article as well. I used *the Australian Open* and *the Tour de France* as examples.

While reading various articles, I noticed two ways of writing a proper noun when it is connected with stadium. When a stadium consists of proper noun and the word stadium, it is preceded with the definite article (*The Britania Stadium*). When a stadium is expressed only with a proper noun, it is not prefaced with the definite article. Though I did not mention the word *Anfield* will use it as an example.

1.3. <u>Travel</u>

1.3.1. Names without determination

James Kemper

Boeing

Patrick Smith

California

Captain Piers Aplleghart

New Zealand

Borneo

Canadian photographer

Sydney Cohen

Cambery

Jurrasic Park

George Turner

Dorset

Rio de Janeiro

Marilyn Monroe

Brazilian restaurant

Brazilians

Apollo 11

One Direction

Lady Gaga

David Beckham

La Fortuna

(Daily Mail, 8 February 2016)

1.3.2.Names with determination

The Carolina Panthers

The Seattle Seahawks

The San Francisco 49ers

The Alfred Hitchcock classic

The Sonoma coast

The Leprechaun Museum

The Library Bar

The London Eye

The Garden of Beyssin

The Bram Stoker International Film Festival

The East Cliff

The River Esk

The North Sea

The Gulf of Reet Grand

The Costa del Yorkshire

The North Bay

The Second World War

The Grand National

The Shakespeare´s classic tale

(Daily Mirror, 8 February 2016)

1.3.3. Summary

While reading articles about travelling I found out that personal names do not occur as much as in different kinds of articles such as sport section or business section. Nevertheless, proper nouns without determiners still appear a lot in this section. Geographical names, especially names of countries and cities are very common in articles cohering with travelling.

Geographical names which are preceded with the definite article are very frequent in this section. I do not find as surprising because geographical names are closely related with travelling. Names of cities and countries occur in every section of newsprint, but in my opinion, in the section about travelling, they are the most frequent. This section is full of the other kinds of Geographical names as well.

Geographical features of coastline, as for instance *the East Cliff, the North Bay, the Sonoma Coast* are mentioned in this section. Rivers and seas may be also mentioned in this section. Some kinds of building, for example museums (*the Leprechaun Museum*), or sightseeing (*the London Eye*) are quite related with travelling. These all kinds of proper nouns are always preceded with the definite article.

2.   Proper nouns with the indefinite articles in newspaper

2.2. Examples

A UK Government

A Department of Transport spokesman

*A Europe (*without British influence)

A UK internet

A US money

A Capital One Cup semi-final shoot-out

A Stoke breakaway

A Sakho header

A World Cup

A Wembley trip

A Chelsey spokesman

A South African attack

An Australian side

(The Daily Telegraph, 27 January 2016)

A British expert

A Grand Slam singles semi-final

A Bulgarian

An Estonian

A Sundance record

An OPEC member

A Saudi perspective

An Apple Watch

An Italian company

A Hard Rock Resort

A Westin Hotel

A Melbourne Newspaper

(The International New York Times, 28 January 2016)

2.2. Summary

While studying presence of proper nouns with the indefinite articles in newsprint I found out that this kind of proper nouns is not frequent at all. I mentioned examples of these proper nouns in a more different way from how I mentioned examples of proper nouns with the definite article in the previous chapters.

In each section I read, I chose several examples of proper nouns with the definite article and enrolled them into the previous chapters. In comparison with this kind of proper nouns, I chose all proper nouns with the indefinite article which I researched during reading articles of each section. Not only some examples, but all proper nouns I found.

As it is possible to recognise, proper nouns with the indefinite article mostly characterize something, for example people, things, etc. Adjective is mostly a word class of this kind of proper nouns. Proper nouns with indefinite article do not occur by themselves. When a proper noun is preceded with the indefinite article it should be followed by something, for example by a noun or a noun phrase, etc.

The noun phrase *A British expert* says that this expert comes from Great Britain. *An OPEC member* means that someone is a member of the organisation named OPEC. Nevertheless, it can happen that we see a proper noun standing alone with the indefinite article. When a continent, for example Europe is prefaced by the indefinite article (*a Europe*) it does not mean Europe as a continent. It only shows a character of Europe, or it can express Europe from a potential point of view.

What I explored is that proper nouns with the indefinite article do not occur very often. I am not afraid to say that it is almost impossible to find this kind of proper noun during reading of a text. Nevertheless, I think that every kind of article contains at least one proper noun with the indefinite article.

3.   My findings

In this chapter, I will comment the usage of determiners before proper nouns in cases they do not usually occur. By the way, this chapter closely coheres with the previous one which is named "Proper nouns with the indefinite articles in newspapers" because most of unusual cases are mentioned there in the section I mentioned examples I found while reading articles of my newspaper.

The abbreviation for the United States, US, is always preceded by the definite article as well. Nevertheless, I saw the use of the indefinite article before this abbreviation as well while reading The Daily Telegraph newspaper. The context of this usage sounded *a US money-laundering case*. *Us money-laundering* is a kind of compound and it serves as an attribute for the word *case*. The word case is a reason why the abbreviation US must be preceded by the indefinite article because this whole compound identifies a quality for the word case.

The other case I found is the use of the definite article before the name of a city. This case sounds *the Liverpool area*. The word Liverpool also serves as the attribute for the word area. The phrase "the Liverpool area" was used in the article about a football match. The definite article is used before the word area because the context says that a football player kick the ball into the Liverpool area. The author of this article means the certain area around the net of the football team playing for Liverpool.

The phrase "*a Melbourne Newspaper*" seemed to me interesting as well. First of all, the indefinite article precedes the word Melbourne. I assume that it is written in this way because it identifies a kind of newspaper. The other reason why I founded it interesting is that rules of Contemporary English say that names of newspapers are always prefaced with the definite article. Nevertheless, the International New York Times, I noticed this phrase in, this phrase identifies a kind of specific newspaper whose names is mentioned there as well. It is "The Age". So, I expect that the indefinite article is used before this phrase because it identifies a kind of newspaper which is published in Melbourne.

The same rule applies to phrases *A Chelsea spokesman* and *A Department of Transport spokesman*. We would never put the indefinite article before Chelsea while speaking about a city. But in this case we mean a spokesman coming from Chelsea who is not known, so we add the indefinite article before Chelsea. The same thing can be said about *A Department of Transport spokesman*. However, when we speak about "Department of

Transport" as a part of Government, we are obliged to write the definite article before (*The Department of Transport*).

I found very interesting a way of writing the word bank with –of. We mostly add the definite article before names of banks. However I researched that in some cases we do not put "the" before names of banks. It seems to me interesting and in my opinion a lot of people would not see difference between. While "Bank of England" is preceded with the definite article (*the Bank of England)* we do not put any article before *Bank of America. Royal Bank of Scotland* is not preceded with the definite article as well.

While reading the Daily Telegraph, I also noticed all ways of writing the phrase "World Cup". At the beginning of an article this phrase is contained, I found this phrase without any determiner. Nevertheless, it is preceded by the word Russian, so I expect that this is the reason why it is used without any article. Simply, in my opinion, *World Cup* without determination is a name for a tournament. The use of the indefinite article before the phrase "World Cup" (*a World Cup*) occurred in the context of prompting a mass boycott of *a World Cup*. I expect that it means that a tournament World cup for an uncertain year could be cancelled. When it is preceded with the definite article it names a trophy for a winner of this tournament or a specific tournament. It is very frequent that it occurs with a numeral of a year between the definite article and the name of the tournament, for example *the 2018 World Cup*.

While reading the newspaper I bought, I saw a written form of a word hotel which may seem to be unusual if you do not know the context. The form was "a Westin hotel". We are obligated to put "the" before names of hotels. I mentioned *the Sheraton Hotel* as an example in the theoretical part of my Bachelor Thesis. However, "Westin hotel" is not a name of a hotel. Its official name is **Westin Hotels & Resorts** which is an upscale hotel chain owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide and it consists of about 200 hotels. So, I expect, that Westin hotel preceded with the indefinite article (*a Westin Hotel)* means a hotel which is a part of the hotel chain named Westin Hotels & Resorts.

When you read the previous part, you may be surprised when you see "*A UK Government*". Both, "UK" and "Government" are always preceded with the definite article when they carry their classical meaning. Nevertheless, the whole phrase sounded *A UK Government source*. I assume that it refers to a member of the British Government who is not known in the article I read.

In spite of the fact names of continents occur without determination I noticed the indefinite article before Europe, *a Europe*. The context was *a Europe without British*

influence. The meaning of this Europe is not Europe as a continent in a classical way, but a specific characteristic of Europe.

I would also like to comment the use of determiners before the phrase "Capital One Cup". I noticed both the definite and indefinite articles preceded this phrase. When there was the indefinite article, the context was that a football player struck a decisive penalty in ***a Capital One Cup*** *semi-final shoot-out*. As far as the use of the definite article, the written form of this phrase looked ***the Capital One Cup*** *semi-final decider*. In my opinion, it seems difficult to find a difference between these two cases. Nevertheless, I expect that in the second example, we must put "the" because it refers to a specific goal which won a football match. I think that "Capital One Cup semi-final shoot-out" is prefaced with the indefinite article *(a Capital One Cup semi-final shoot-out)* because it identifies a part of a football match, semi-final shoot-out.

I would like to mention the other case similar to the previous one. It is the use of the definite article before a personal name. The phrase I want to comment in this paragraph sounded ***the*** *current* ***Michael Jordan*** *of sumo*. It refers to a Japanese sumo wrestler who is as good at sumo as Michael Jordan at basketball.

In my opinion all cases of unusual usage of determiners are connected with the use of determiners before proper nouns we would not normally put. These proper nouns do not have their classical meaning in these situations. In these cases they mostly serve as attributes which identifies nouns which follow them.

4. Conclusion

The main aim of my Bachelor Thesis was to map presence of determiners with proper nouns in newsprint. According to what I found out, I think that proper nouns without determination are more frequent than proper nouns with determiners.

I also spent some time with comparing of presence the definite and the indefinite articles. I found out that proper nouns with the indefinite articles do not occur as frequently as proper nouns with the definite article. I even realised it is quite impossible to find some.

As far as proper nouns, personal names are the most common. Not only in point of view of proper nouns without determiners. In my opinion a group of personal names without article is the most frequent group of proper nouns. Every section has articles which are full of personal names because people are the main actors of everyday life events. Names of countries, cities and continents occur in each section in frequent number as well. Nationality nouns cohere with this group of personal names. These groups of proper nouns sometimes occur with determiners which mean that they do not have their classic meaning. For example, during reading of article about Japanese wrestling, one wrestler was described as *the current Michael Jordan of sumo*. He was said to be as good wrestler as Michael Jordan basketball player.

A group of proper nouns complexly called "Temporal names" was the other group of personal names without articles which was quite frequent in every section. Every article of every section contained days of the week and months. As we know names of every single day of the week and of every month of the year I did not find it necessary to list every "Temporal name" I found.

As far as proper nouns which are preceded with determiners, they do not occur as much as proper nouns without determiners. In my opinion, proper nouns with determiners are frequent only in specific types of sections. For instance, when I read articles of sport section, I had difficulty with finding proper nouns preceded by determiners. However, business section was downright full of proper nouns with determiners.

As I have already mentioned, personal names occur the most frequently in newsprint. Actually, we could say the same thing about temporal names. Nevertheless, it is not a large group of proper nouns. Otherwise, in my opinion, everything depends on a kind of section we read.

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