

Introduction

Five years after the emergence of the first large electronic corpus of Czech, called SYN2000 (SYN indicating that it was a synchronic corpus, and 2000 the initial year of online access), an international conference titled *Grammar & Corpora / Gramatika a korpus 2005* was organized in Prague. Two years later, a second conference followed, organized once again in the Czech Republic, though not in Prague, but at the nearby castle of Liblice. During the conference at Liblice, the organizer of these two international conferences worked with Germanists from the German Institute for the German Language (Institut für deutsche Sprache, IDS) in Mannheim, and they agreed that the third conference in the series would take place in Mannheim in 2009, under the organization of colleagues from IDS.

Contributions to these three conferences were published in book form, as 1) *Gramatika a korpus / Grammar and Corpora 2005*, ed. F. Štícha a J. Šimandl, Ústav pro jazyk český AV ČR, Praha, 2007; 2) *Grammar and Corpora / Gramatika a korpus 2007*, ed. F. Štícha a M. Fried, Praha: Academia, 2008; and 3) *Grammatik und Korpora 2009. Dritte Internationale Konferenz*, ed. M. Konopka – J. Kubczak – Ch. Mair – F. Štícha, Tübingen: Narr Verlag, 2011).

Despite their efforts, the organizers of the conference in Mannheim and the editors of the Mannheim volume were unable to find an organizer in a new country for a fourth conference. It seemed that, after its successful triple jump, the enterprise was out of breath. The series of conferences would probably not have continued if the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Czech linguist Milos Dokulil in 2012 had not provided a strong impetus. After a three year interval, the fourth international conference, "Grammar and Corpus 2012 (on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Milos Dokulil)", took place on November 28-30, 2012 at the Academy of Sciences in Prague. We now present in electronic form the majority of papers presented at this conference.

The conference series "Grammar and Corpora" will continue, this time once again after a two year interval, in 2014, when the fifth conference in the series will be held in Warsaw. At the same time it is hoped that the establishment of a permanent organizing committee, with members from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, and Russia, will suffice to ensure that these scholarly meetings between empirically oriented linguists and the creators of electronic corpora will continue.