Department of English Language and ELT Methodology

Major Research Areas
Research at the Department of English Language and ELT Methodology covers most of the areas and aspects of English, and all our projects together aspire to provide a coherent and comprehensive synchronic and diachronic description of the language. In addition to basic disciplines (morphology and syntax), research interests revolve around lexicology and textual communication disciplines (linguistic stylistics, pragmatics, discourse analysis). The underlying principle of our research is to apply a consistently contrastive view of English versus Czech and to simultaneously cultivate the linguistic and philological arms of research and instruction. A feature, unique in the Czech Republic, of the research carried out at the Institute is the close link between synchronic description and language analysis, and diachronic and historical approaches. The fundamental methodological starting point applied by the Institute in its research projects is the current form of functional structuralism associated with the Prague School of Linguistics; at the same time the Institute continues to respond to the latest major trends in linguistics and English Studies in the world, namely cognitive linguistics and construction grammar. Other resources for research material and methods include corpus and computational linguistics (work with monolingual and parallel corpora). The Department’s overall orientation is to promote the direct link between research activities and teaching, including teacher training (this applies to all levels of the degree programmes taught; our Ph.D. doctoral degree programme in ELT includes academic training towards producing experts in language teaching).

Profiling Projects
The Department is currently involved in a major collective project, Language Structures and Communication, with members of our staff working on a subtask entitled Studies on an English-Czech Translation Grammar and Applied Research of Communication. The project will result in an electronic research and training portal, EMSA (Elektronická mluvnice současné angličtiny – An Electronic Grammar of Contemporary English at [http://www.mluvniceanglictiny.cz/](http://www.mluvniceanglictiny.cz/)), based on Professor Libuše Dušková’s Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny (A Grammar of Contemporary English Against the Background of Czech; published by Academia in 1988, 1994, 2003, 2006). Another major project with substantial contribution from our academic staff is The Czech National Corpus and Corpora of Other Languages, a research plan in which our Department has been assigned a subtask entitled InterCorp: English-Czech and Czech-English Parallel Corpus. Furthermore, core members of our staff have been involved in the European Union research project ACUME2 (Interfacing Sciences and Humanities).

Major Publication Projects
The Department has been involved in systematic long-term cooperation with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus in a joint project of parallel corpora, Intercorp, which is part of the research plan The Czech National Corpus and Corpora of Other Languages; these activities result in regular series published by the Lidové Noviny Publishing House, Prague, including (collective) monographs in contrastive linguistics (Czech-English Studies in Syntax, Morphology and Lexicology). Members of our Department contribute as chief editors or members of editorial boards in renowned linguistic series and journals published by Charles University and the Institute of the Czech Language of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic: major publications include Prague Studies in English, Linguistica Pragensia, Brno Studies in English and Časopis pro moderní filologii (Modern Philology Journal).
National and International Partner Institutions
The Department currently enjoys a partnership with the University of Canterbury in Kent, working on a five-year joint project entitled Chaucer in Bohemia (2011-2015), and with linguistically and philologically oriented medieval scholars in Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Furthermore, our participation in student and teacher exchange programmes and other partnership initiatives has brought us into contact with English departments in the UK (Sheffield, Bristol, Birmingham, Edinburgh), continental Europe (Freiburg, Munich, Vienna, Poznań), the USA and other parts of the world. The Department moreover maintains close partnerships with English departments all over the Czech Republic (Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education, Masaryk University in Brno; Philosophical Faculty, Palacký University in Olomouc; Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava and others) as well as Slovakia (Department of British and American Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice; Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra), while members of our Department sit on various academic boards, contributing to the development of the field locally. Each year, the Department is proud to welcome visiting lecturers from universities and academic institutions abroad, including Karl-Maxmilian Universität in Munich, University of Freiburg, University of Helsinki, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and University of Leuven, Belgium.

Major Conferences and Events
The Department of English Language and ELT Methodology is a regular organizer and co-organizer of academic events. It has a long-term cooperation with Oxford University in organizing the Prague-Oxford Medieval Studies Symposium. Recent events with the Department’s participation include Prague School and Theories of Structure under the ACUME2 Project (Interfacing Sciences and Humanities) (held in October 2008 by our Department, then known as Department of English and American Studies) and the international conference Construction Grammar (October 2010, in partnership with the Institute of the Czech Language of the Academy of Sciences of the CR, and the Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication, FACU). The Department has been involved, as organizer or participant, in the international conferences InterCorp 2009 and KorpLing 2011, discussing research and development of Czech language corpora and parallel corpora of Czech with other languages, and the potential of use of such corpora especially in lexicology and grammar.