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Herausgeber – Editors

G. Altmann	Univ. Bochum (Germany)	ram-verlag@t-online.de
K.-H. Best	Univ. Göttingen (Germany)	kbest@gwdg.de
P. Grzybek	Univ. Graz (Austria)	peter.grzybek@uni-graz.at
A. Hardie	Univ. Lancaster (England)	a.hardie@lancaster.ac.uk
L. Hřebíček	Akad .d. W. Prag (Czech Republik)	ludek.hrebicek@seznam.cz
R. Köhler	Univ. Trier (Germany)	koehler@uni-trier.de
J. Mačutek	Univ. Bratislava (Slovakia)	jmacutek@yahoo.com
G. Wimmer	Univ. Bratislava (Slovakia)	wimmer@mat.savba.sk
A. Ziegler	Univ. Graz Austria)	Arne.ziegler@uni-graz.at

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Abstract. The author hypothesizes that in sentences, there exist positional intervals in which some frequency rhythm is manifested, and applying various techniques and tests she finds relevant arguments in favour of this hypothesis. Data from Bulgarian texts are used.

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(in the metalanguage of the Macmillan English Dictionary's defining vocabulary)

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The paper deals with (1) the predictive relevance of formal characteristics, singled out at different linguistic levels, for choosing words for the metalanguage and (2) a comparison of the relationship between the characteristics in a metalanguage and in the natural language from which that metalanguage was derived. The study is based on the verbal systems of the English language and the defining vocabulary in the Macmillan English Dictionary (2002). Correlation analysis (the coefficients of Cole for alternative characteristics and Jaccard) is used in the study.

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