

# Comparing comparatives: adverbs and adjectives in Morava Czech

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# The talk

- ▶ A Nanosyntactic treatment of comparatives in Central Morava Czech

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- ▶ A Nanosyntactic treatment of comparatives in Central Morava Czech
- ▶ Allomorphy of the comparative marker is an effect of root size (no context-sensitive rules are needed)

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# The comparative of adjectives

- ▶ Comparative adjectives have two allomorphs

| POS   | CMPR      | GLOSS   |
|-------|-----------|---------|
| čir-ý | čiř-ejš-í | 'clear' |

# The comparative of adjectives

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| čir-ý | čiř-ejš-í | 'clear' | star-ý | star-š-í | 'old' |

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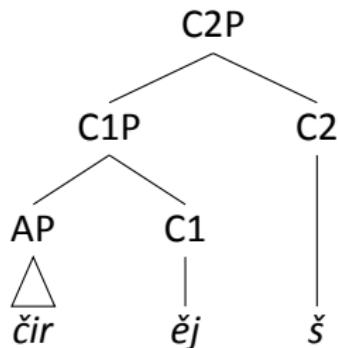
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(1) -ěj-š-

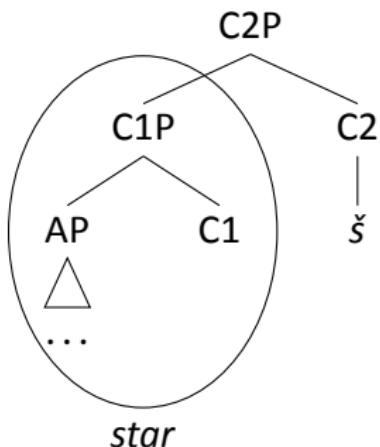
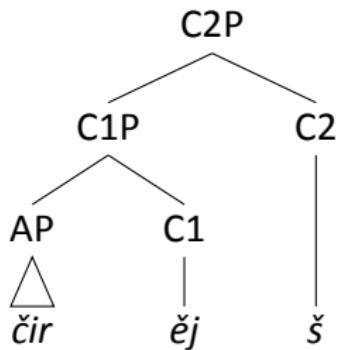


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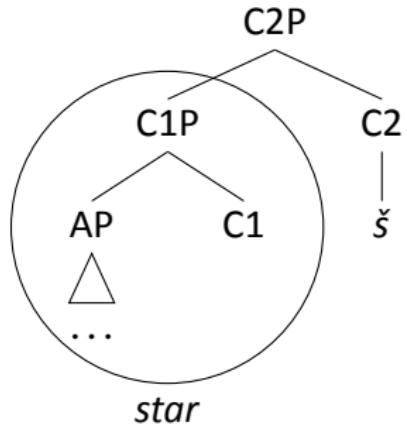
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- (1) -ěj-š-
- (2) -š



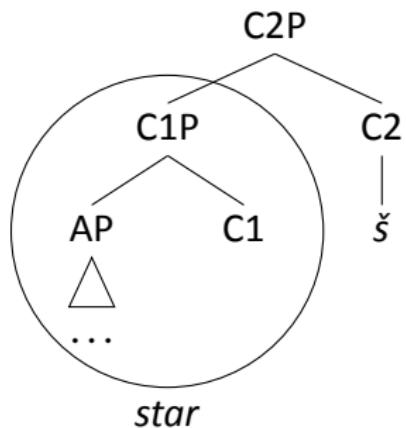
# The Superset Principle

(3) a.

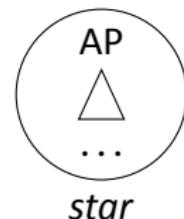


# The Superset Principle

(3) a.



b.



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(4) ‘warm’

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slab- -š-í (adjective) →

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tepl-ej-š (adverb)

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slab- -š-í (adjective) →

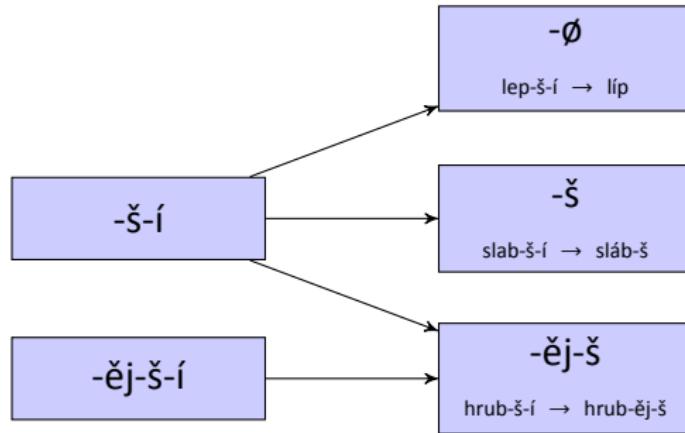
sláb- -š (adverb)

- (4) ‘warm’  
tepl-ej-š-í (adjective) →  
tepl-ej-š (adverb)
- (5) ‘weak’  
slab- -š-í (adjective) →  
sláb- -š (adverb)
- (6) ‘rough’  
hrub- -š-í (adjective) →

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tepl-ěj-š-í (adjective) →  
tepl-ěj-š (adverb)
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hrub- -š-í (adjective) →  
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- (7) ‘good’  
lep- -š-í (adjective) →

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lep- -š-í (adjective) →  
líp (adverb)



Adjective-adverb pairs in Central Morava

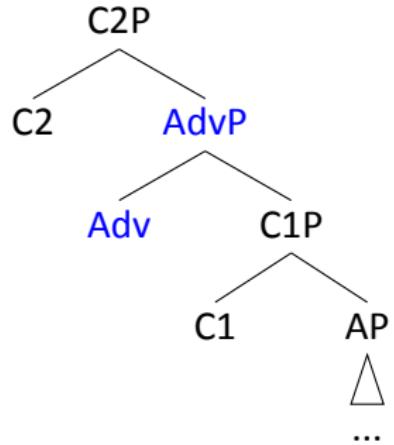
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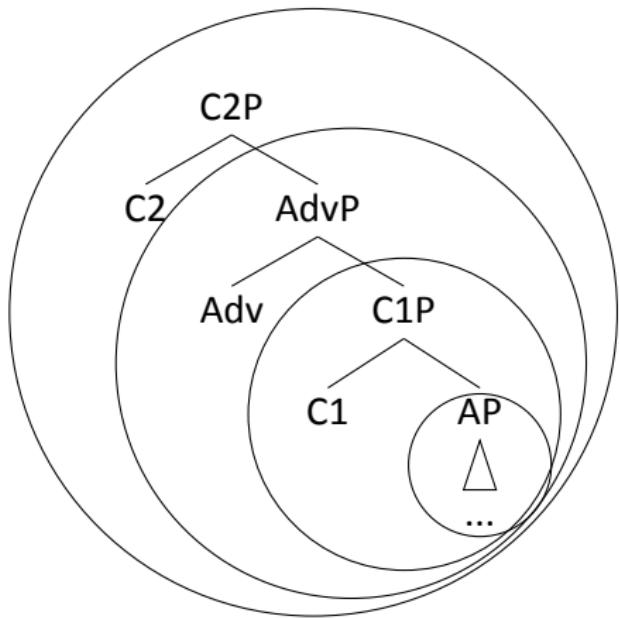
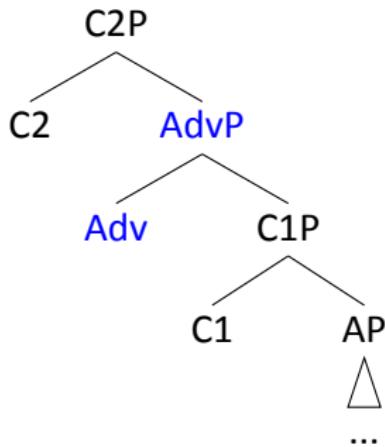
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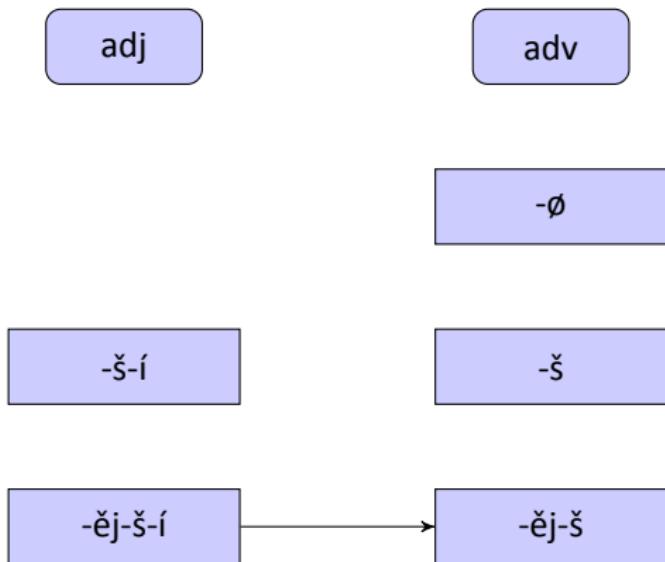
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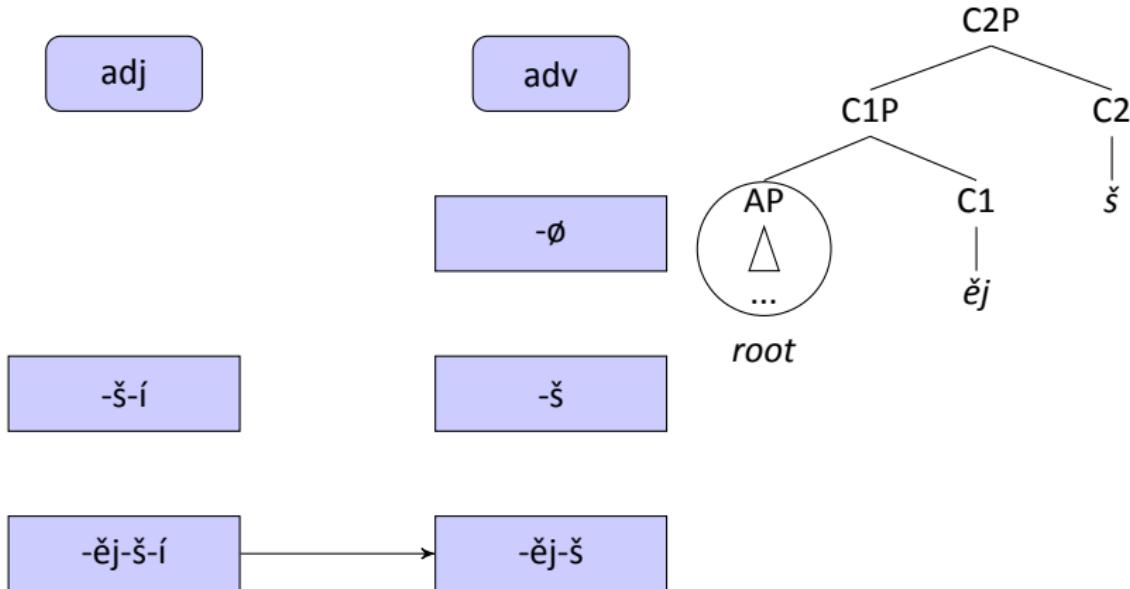




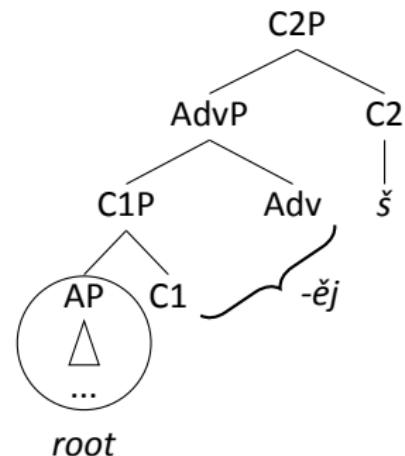
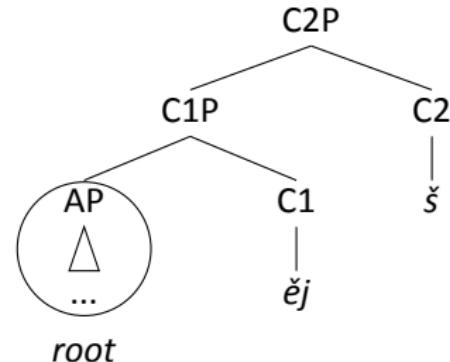
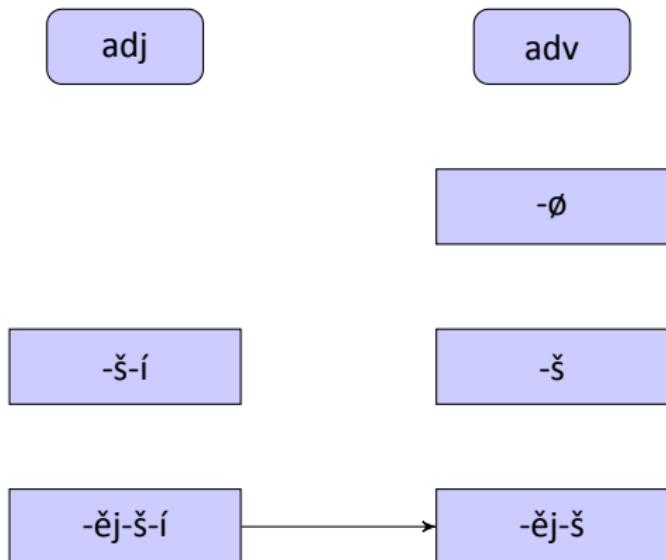
# AP-size roots



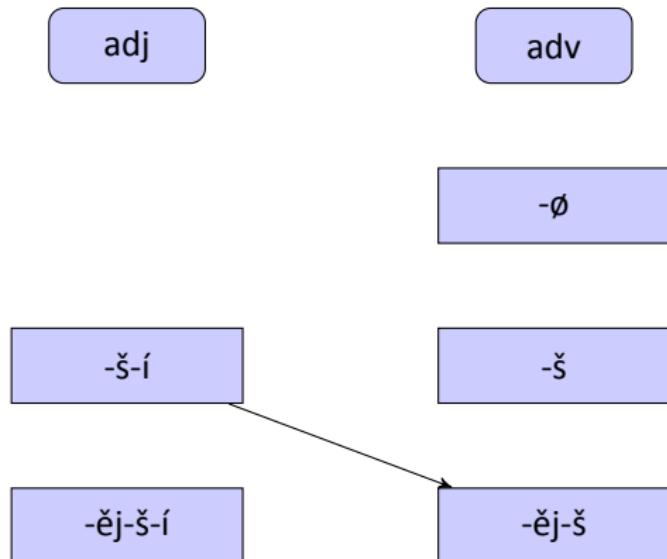
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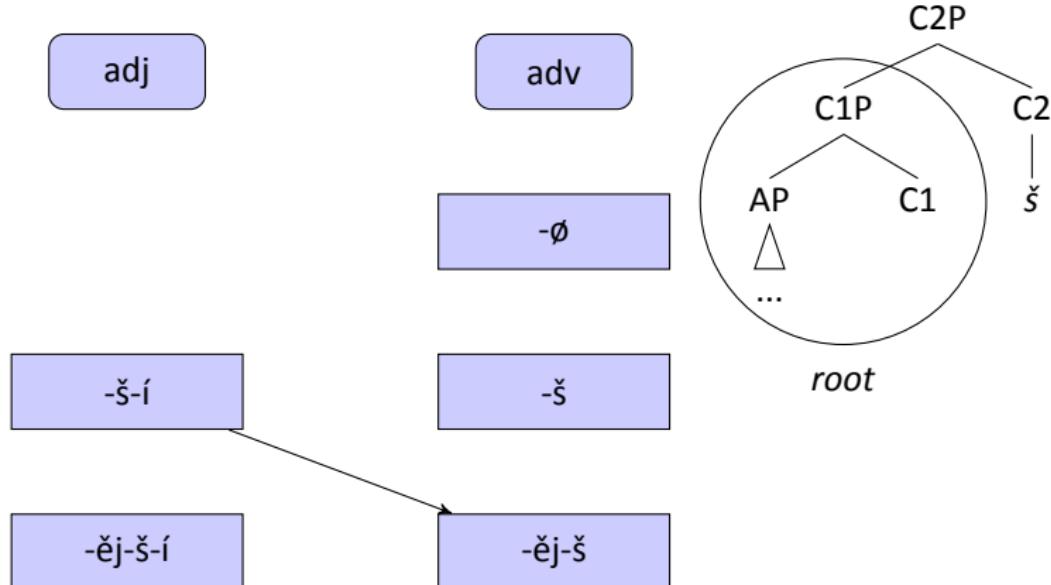
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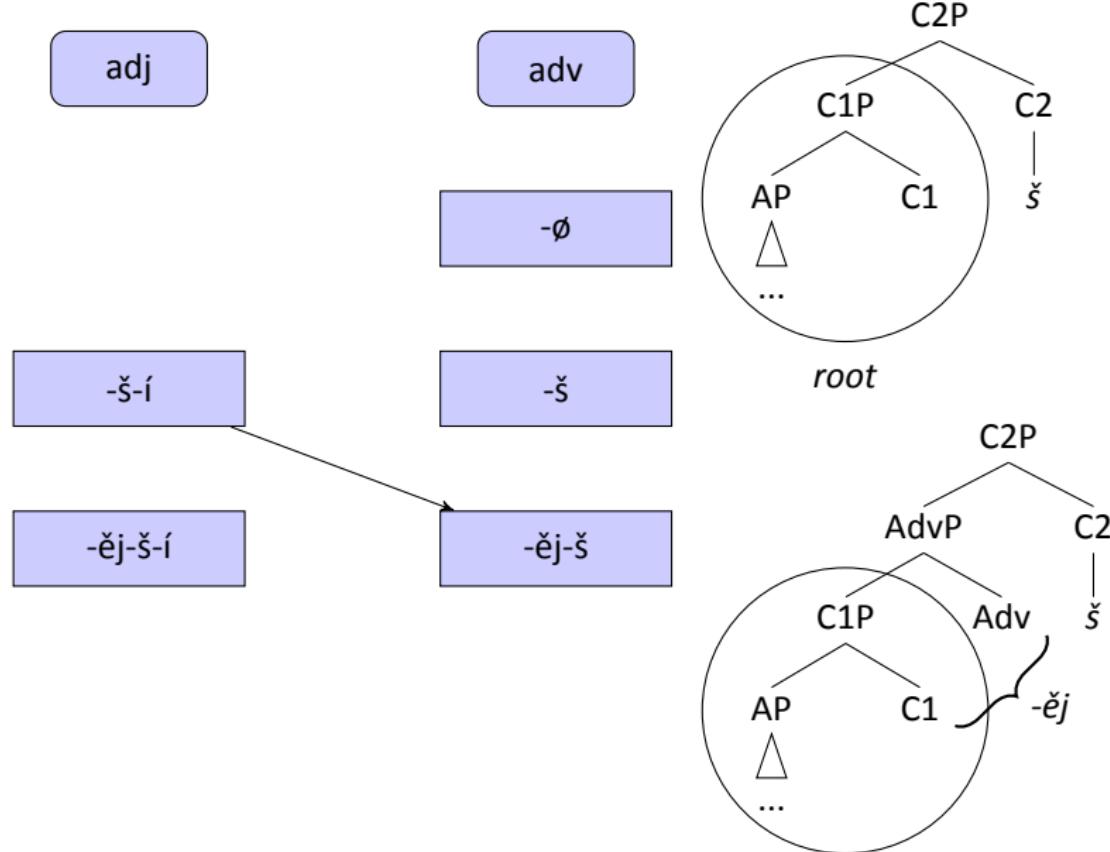
## C1P-size roots



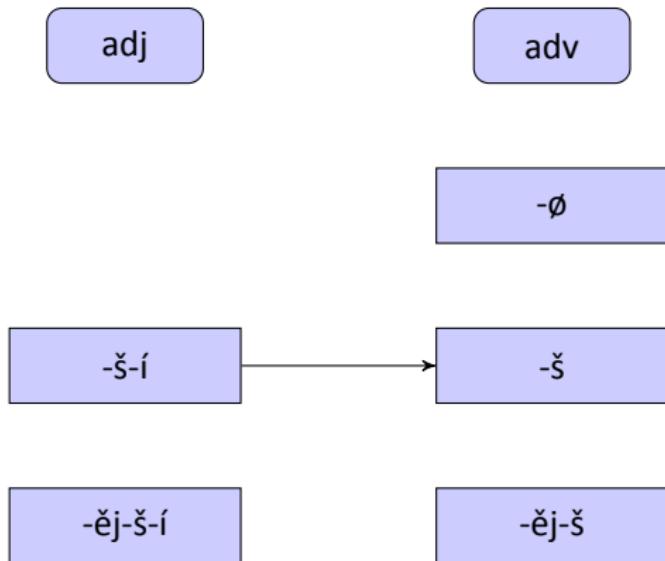
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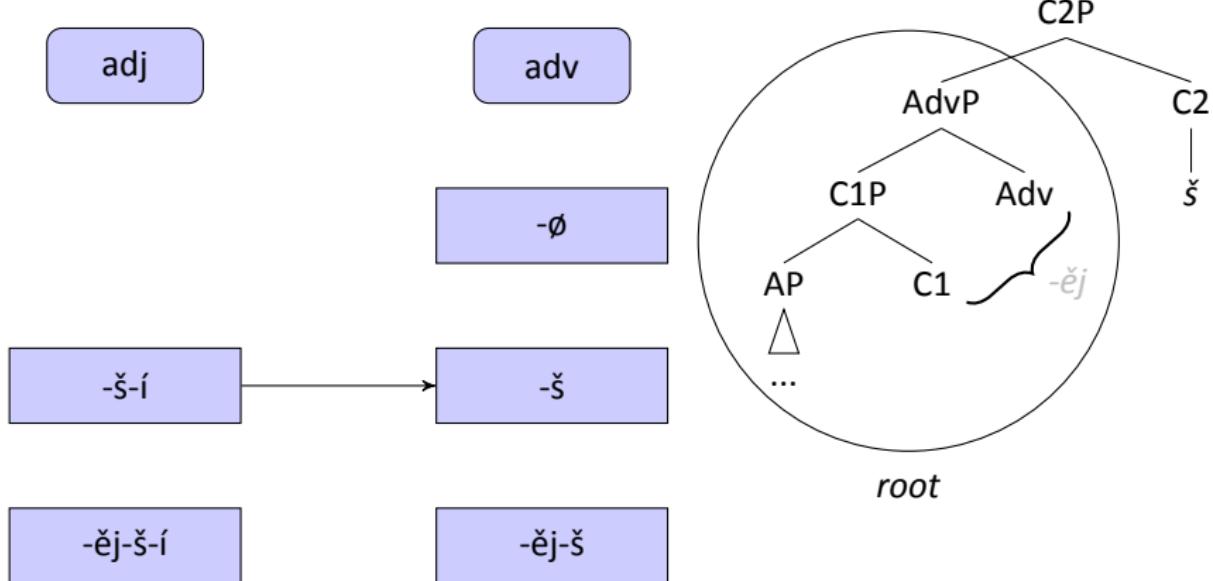
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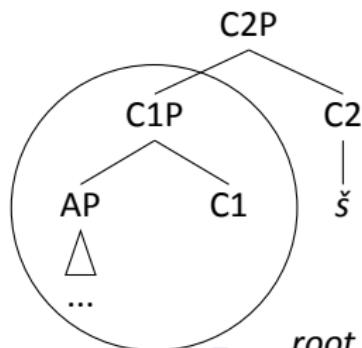
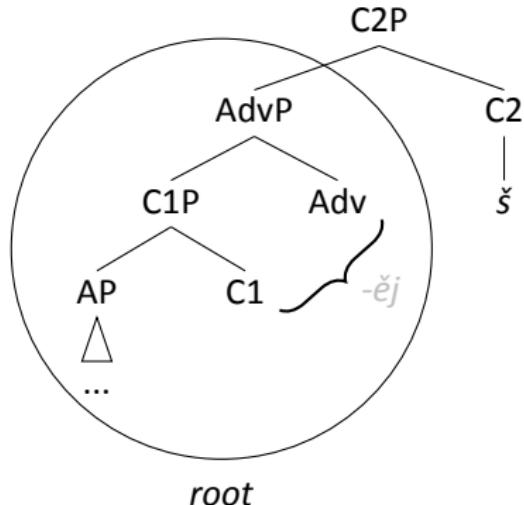
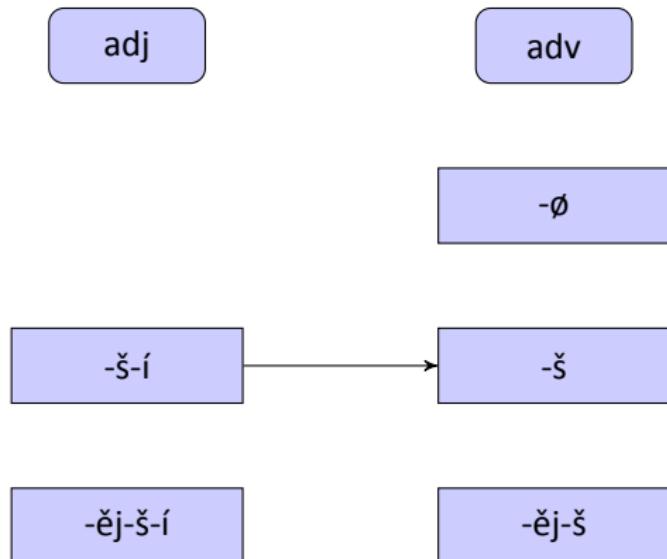
## Adv-size roots



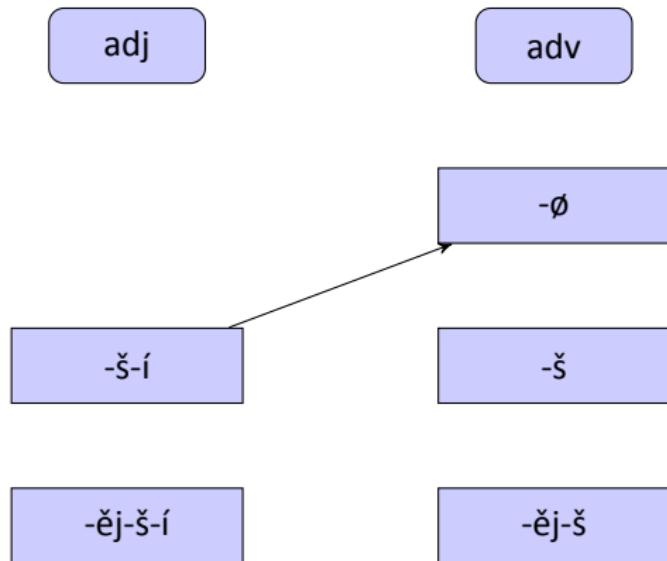
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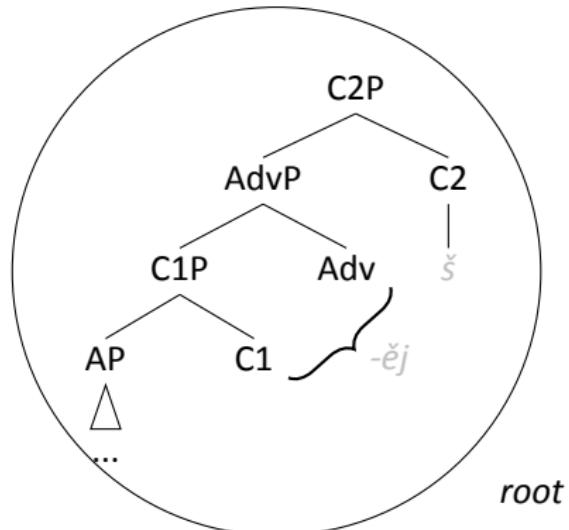
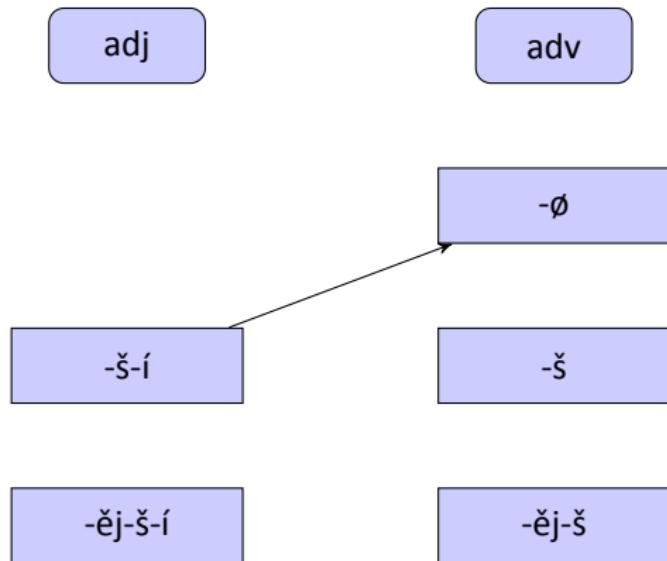
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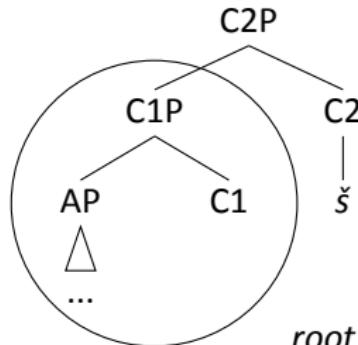
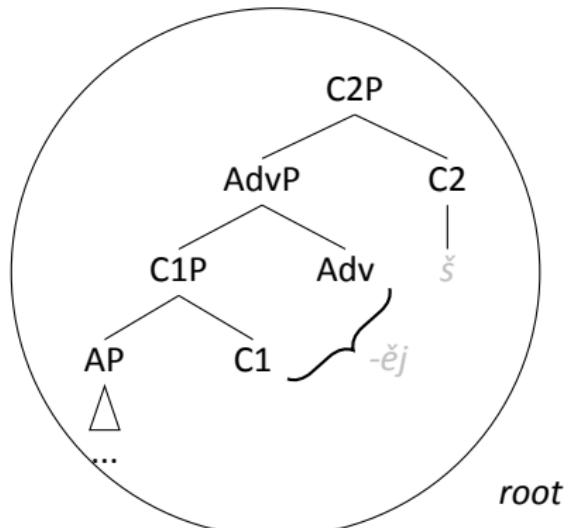
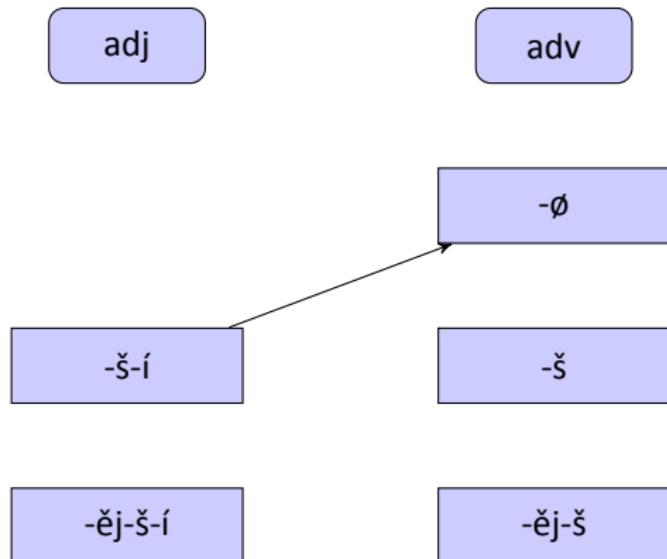
## C2P-size roots



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- ▶ we model this as an effect of phrasal lexicalisation
- ▶ it also allows us to characterise the complex pairing of adjectives and adverbs

# Thank you!

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Appendix I: Adverbial length

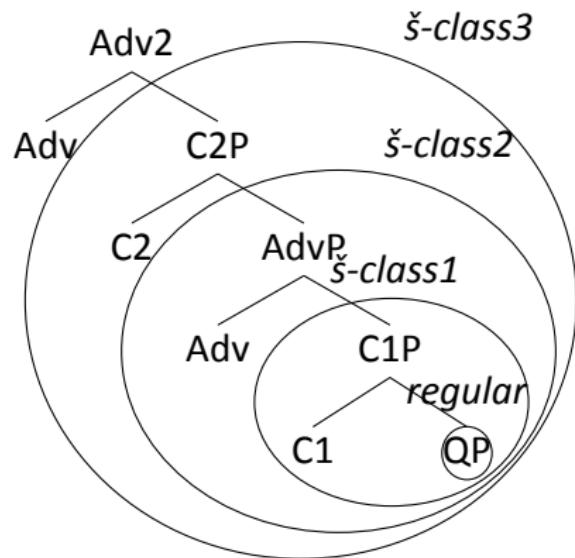
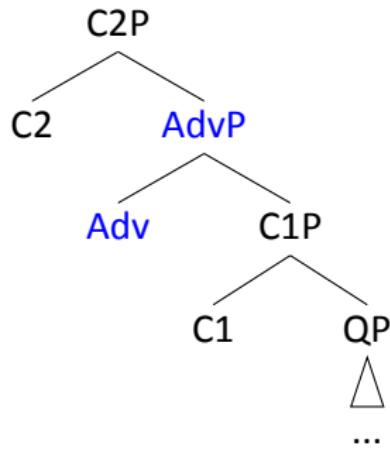
Appendix II: Map

Appendix III: More data

| POSITIVE  |           | COMPARATIVE |         |                        |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| ADJ       | ADV       | ADJ         | ADV     |                        |
| drah-ý    | draz-e    | draž-š-í    | dráž    | 'expensive'            |
| hust-ý    | hust-ě    | hust-š-í    | houšť   | 'dense'                |
| snadn-ý   | snadn-o   | snaz-š-í    | snáz    | 'easy'                 |
| dobr-ý    | dobř-e    | lep-š-í     | líp     | 'good'                 |
| špatn-ý   | špatn-ě   | hor-š-í     | hůř     | 'bad'                  |
| dlouh-ý   | dlouh-o   | del-š-í     | dýl     | 'long'                 |
| mal-ý     | mál-o     | men-š-í     | míň     | 'little' (measure adv) |
| vel-k-ý   | (mnoh-o ) | vět-š-í     | víc     | 'big' (measure adv)    |
| slab-ý    | slab-ě    | slab-š-í    | sláb-š  | weak                   |
| hlub-ok-ý | hlub-oc-e | hlub-š-í    | hloub-š | deep                   |
| krát-k-ý  | krát-c-e  | krat-š-í    | krát-š  | short                  |

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| krát-k-ý  | krát-c-e  | krat-š-í    | krát-š    | short                  |
| slab-ý    | slab-ě    | slab-š-í    | slab-ěj-š | weak                   |



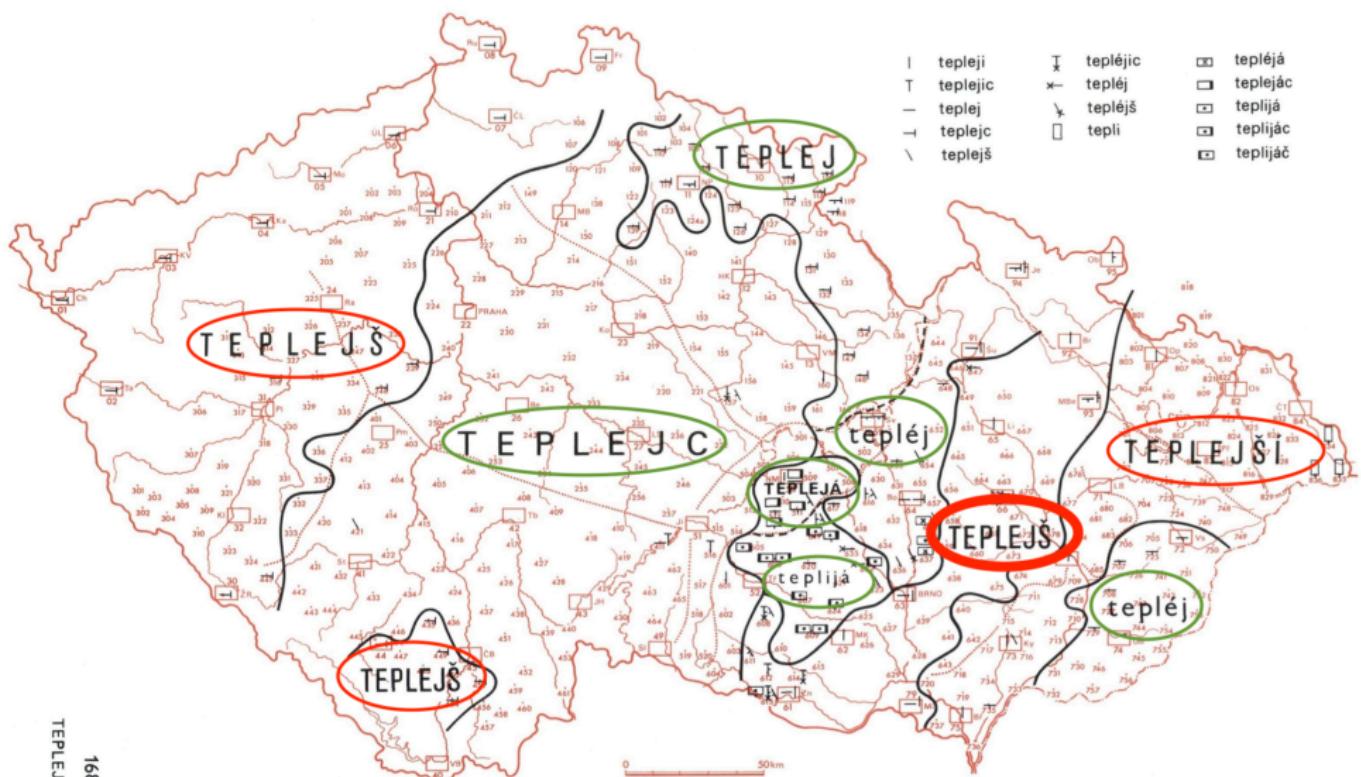
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# Dialect atlas



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# Literary Czech

- ▶ adverbs in Literary Czech lack -š-

| (8) | CMPR ADJ      | CMPR ADV    |
|-----|---------------|-------------|
|     | rychl-ej-š-i  | rychl-ej-i  |
|     | červen-ěj-š-i | červen-ěj-i |
|     | hloup-ěj-š-i  | hloup-ěj-i  |
|     | bujař-ej-š-i  | bujař-ej-i  |

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|     | bujař-ej-š-í  | bujař-ej-i  |
|     | draž- Š-í     | dráž- e     |

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|     | bujař-ej-š-í  | bujař-ej-i  |
|     | draž- Š-í     | dráž- e     |
|     | tvrd- Š-í     | tvrd-ěj-i   |

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|     | bujař-ej-š-í  | bujař-ej-i  |
|     | draž- Š-í     | dráž- e     |
|     | tvrd- Š-í     | tvrd-ěj-i   |

Why do roots such as 'hard' lack -ěj in the adjectival comparative, but regrow it in the adverbial comparative?

| POSITIVE    |            | COMPARATIVE |               |                      |
|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|
| ADJ         | ADV        | ADJ         | ADV           |                      |
| jednoduch-ý | jednoduš-e | jednoduš-ší | jednoduš-ej-š | 'simple'             |
| tich-ý      | tiš-e      | tiš-ší      | tiš-ej-š      | 'silent'             |
| such-ý      | suš-e      | suš-ší      | suš-ej-š      | 'dry'                |
| ploch-ý     | ploš-e     | ploš-ší     | ploš-ej-š     | 'flat'               |
| čist-ý      | čist-ě     | čist-ší     | čist-ěj-š     | 'clean'              |
| hust-ý      | hust-ě     | hust-ší     | hust-ěj-š     | 'dense'              |
| prost-ý     | prost-ě    | prost-ší    | prost-ěj-š    | 'simple, simplistic' |
| tlust-ý     | tlust-ě    | tlust-ší    | tlust-ěj-š    | 'fat'                |
| sprost-ý    | sprost-ě   | sprost-ší   | sprost-ěj-š   | 'rude'               |
| pust-ý      | pust-ě     | pust-ší     | pust-ěj-š     | 'desolate'           |
| slab-ý      | slab-ě     | slab-ší     | slab-ěj-š     | 'weak'               |
| hrub-ý      | hrub-ě     | hrub-ší     | hrub-ěj-š     | 'rough'              |
| star-ý      | stař-e     | star-ší     | ? stař-ej-š   | 'old'                |
| bled-ý      | bled-ě     | bled-ší     | bled-ěj-š     | 'pale'               |
| sněd-ý      | sněd-ě     | sněd-ší     | ?sněd-ěj-š    | 'dark' (skinned)     |
| šed-ý       | šed-ě      | šed-ší      | šed-ěj-š      | 'gray'               |
| mlad-ý      | mlad-ě     | mlad-ší     | ?mlad-ěj-š    | 'young'              |
| tvrd-ý      | tvrd-ě     | tvrd-ší     | tvrd-ěj-š     | 'hard'               |
| bohat-ý     | bohat-ě    | bohat-ší    | bohat-ěj-š    | 'rich'               |
| tmav-ý      | tmav-ě     | tmav-ší     | tmav-ěj-š     | 'dark'               |