

# English Prepositions Off and From and Their Croatian Counterparts

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English prepositions *off* and *from* and their Croatian counterparts

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the English prepositions *off* and *from* and their Croatian counterparts. Research was conducted in order to see how *off* and *from* are translated into Croatian. Upon concluding the first part of the research, a contrastive analysis was conducted in order to analyze the reverse situation. Using the information we gained from the first part of the research, we analyzed the most relevant translations of *off* and *from* which proved to be *iz*, *sa* and *od*. In the main part of the thesis, we explain the specific settings in which a preposition is used and analyze the translation we offer for it. A short overview of the second part of the research and the most relevant conclusions are presented next. The main findings and statistical data and interpretation are presented in the results part of the thesis. Finally, a conclusion containing the most important findings is presented at the end.

**KEYWORDS:** *off, from, prepositions, translation, od, iz, sa, corpus-based analysis, contrastive analysis*

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## 2 INTRODUCTION

In this M.A. thesis, we are going to explore the prepositions *off* and *from* and their Croatian counterparts. We will try to explore and concisely explain their senses and uses in the English language. A study was conducted in order to determine the most common Croatian translations of the prepositions *off* and *from*. Most of the thesis will consist of the analysis of sentences and proposed translations in order to see how the English and Croatian prepositions function in sentences.

It is important to mention that the prepositions *off* and *from* will be studied only in sentences the translation of which leads to a sentence in Croatian in which the English preposition can be translated as a Croatian preposition. This distinction is important to make because the English language is rich in phrasal verbs. *Off* and *from* will be explored in more detail in the latter part of this thesis but for now, we will present some general definitions so as to make our research aim clearer. As Lindstromberg explains in his book, *English prepositions explained* the term *preposition* covers prepositions proper, directional adverbs and particles. Directional adverbs can be described as intransitive prepositions (Jackendoff and Landau in Lindstormberg). A particle is a neutral designation for the overlapping categories of adverb and preposition that are used in multi-word verbs (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik, 1990, p. 336). Greenbaum and Quirk state that there are phrasal and prepositional verbs. In the case of the former, the particle is an adverb and in the case of the latter a preposition. However, as they state, there is no explicit distinction between multi-word verbs and free combinations where the parts have distinct meanings (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik, 1990). Therefore, as we have previously stated, only English sentences in which the prepositions proper or particles *off* and *from*, which have a prepositional meaning and can be translated into Croatian in such a manner that they still function as prepositions, will be taken into account in this research.

The first preposition we are going to explore is *off*. Regarding the origin of *off*, most dictionaries cite that it stems from the Middle English word “of”. Its first known use is before the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The word *off* functions not only as a preposition but also as an adverb, adjective, verb, and noun, depending on the syntax of the sentence. It is used as a suffix and as an abbreviation for some words. Consulting the Merriam-Webster dictionary, Oxford living dictionaries, and Dictionary.com, we summarized the following meanings for each part of speech it can represent:

As an adverb, *off* carries the meaning of going away from a place into the distance, becoming unconscious, being divided, discontinuity or suspension, absence from work, having access to material goods, being in operation or action or as an intensifier:

*Example: Drink off a glass*<sup>1</sup>

As an adjective, it carries the meaning of feeling unwell, not fresh food, location furthest from the curb of a vehicle, annoying or unfair, unfriendly or hostile, incorrect, poor, eccentric, inferior, a periodic decline in activity, down, circumstanced, stopped from flowing.

As a noun, it carries the meaning for the state or fact for being off, the start of a journey, race or experience. According to the Oxford living dictionaries, *off* as a noun in cricket means “The half of the field (as divided lengthways through the pitch) towards which the batsman's feet are pointed when standing to receive the ball”.<sup>2</sup>

When functioning as a verb, *off* is used in informal context and has the meaning of leaving or killing.

*Example: “I finally snapped and offed the guy.”*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/off> accessed June 2017

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/off> accessed June 2017

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/off> accessed June 2017

As a suffix, *-off* is used to form nouns that denote competitions, especially between finalists or as a means to decide a tie in a competition.<sup>4</sup>

*Examples: runoff, playoff*

*Off* can be used as an abbreviation for the words office, officer, and official.

Finally, *off* can be used as a preposition which will be addressed in more detail in the later part of this thesis.

*From* is the second preposition that we will examine, and it functions solely as a preposition. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, its first known use is before 950, in Middle English period. It is an Old English variant of *from*, *fram* which was then used as an adverb, too, meaning forward. The meanings which *from* conveys will be scrutinized in more detail in the main part of the thesis.

One could categorize prepositions in a number of ways and many of them are mentioned in Lindstromberg's *English prepositions explained*. We will mention only some of them that we find important in order to explain the prepositions and their compatibility with the Croatian language. Prepositions *off* and *from* are categorized as *prepositions of time* and *spatial prepositions* which Lindstromberg (2010,p 9) explains as "any preposition which locates a Subject in space or describes a path (- a change of location in space)". This would be the classification by domain of application. According to the classification by the specificity of meaning, both of them are general. In classification by shape of the Landmark<sup>5</sup>, the Landmark is seen as a surface or as a point on a potential or actual path. When considering depictability both prepositions are generally easy to depict because they suggest

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<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/off> accessed June 2017

<sup>5</sup> In his book Lindstromberg explains that all prepositions explain a relation between two things, in the world. He named them Subject and Landmark. The Landmark is usually bigger and less movable than the Subject. For more details see Lindstromber, English prepositions explained.



relatively detailed images of spatial scenes. All of these classifications are in concordance with the Croatian translations used for these prepositions, at least for the most common uses.

## 2.1 PREPOSITION OFF

In the previous part of this thesis, we described other word classes to which *off* belongs. Now we will take a closer look at *off* as a preposition. Different dictionaries offer senses in which *off* is used in a different manner, for which there are a few reasons. The first reason for this is the target audience. Most dictionaries have multiple lists of senses depending on the target audience, which are usually grouped by the age of the audience and knowledge of the English language. The second reason depends on the focus of the dictionary, on whether it is general or specific. Dictionaries that give a short general overview tend to mention only the most relevant ones or group more related senses together.

Another approach to dealing with prepositions, especially in a more detailed manner, is offered by Lindstromberg's book "English prepositions explained" in which he gives a comparison between two or more similar prepositions. In his book, he offers an explanation in which case one preposition is used instead of another. He also offers a more detailed insight into most of the senses in which a preposition is used and why this might be the case.

*Off* is a spatial preposition. It explains relations in space, but in time as well. The main relation *off* describes is that something is not in contact with another surface or object. This contact can be more or less strong, because of that, in a separate paragraph we are going to analyze sentences meaning that something is no longer unified with something, attached to or just resting on something. Under another subtitle, we are going to explore sentences in which *off* describes distance in space. Furthermore, we are going to explain the relation when something is leading away from a space. *Off* can be used to indicate the source point or distance in time. Another sense mentioned by many dictionaries is deviation from a standard state and describing the end of a previous state. The notion of ending a previous state

will be further analyzed depending on the fact if it is temporary or assumed to be final. Finally, we are going to analyze the notion of disliking something, given that its use is distinctive.

Translations of *off* in Croatian that are offered in Filipović's English- Croatian dictionary are for movement *od, odavle, odatle, dalje, iz* and *sa*. For inaction, the translations provided are *daleko, udaljeno od, izvan postrani*. Furthermore, there are other translations such as *ispred* and translations of some phrases we find convenient for our purposes such as "off work" *izvan posla, bez posla* and "off form" *izvan forme*, off one's feed *bez teka, apetita* (Filipović, 1999, pp. 740, 741). Password, an English dictionary for speakers of Croatian, offers the translations *s, od* for the "meaning away, down from". "Not wanting or being allowed to have" is translated as *zabranjen, koji odbija* and the notion of "being out of something" as *iz*. (Kernerman semi-bilingual dictionaries, 1997, p. 464).

## 2.2 PREPOSITION FROM

We will now take a closer look at the preposition from. It is a temporal spatial preposition, meaning that it explains relations in time and in space. Its meaning is fundamentally dynamic (Lindstromberg, 2010, p. 29). Preposition *from* conveys a number of different senses. We consulted the Meriam-Webster dictionary, Oxford living dictionaries, and Dictionary.com, as well as Lindstromberg's English prepositions explained and created a list of possible meanings.

From is a temporal preposition and it indicates a starting point in time. It is also used as a spatial preposition and it indicates a starting point in space, as well. We use from to explain the origin of something or someone. Another sense which from covers is describing the material of which something is produced. We will analyze the senses of distance and range. From can be used as a static preposition as well, indicating someone's position or point of view, whether physical or metaphorical. Further, we will analyze from in the sense when it indicates the cause of something. From is also used to depict a

change from a previous state to another. Lastly, we are going to analyze from when it is used in the sense of comparison.

Translations of from offered by Filipović are *od, iz, po, o, s(a), kod, u,* and *odakle*. We may notice that from is translated mostly as a spatial preposition. Filipović offers additionally translations of some phrases in which from is used, such as: “from time to time” – *od vremena do vremena* and “from day to day” – *iz dana u dan*. It is interesting to notice here that time and day are perceived as a surface or points in time in the English language while in the Croatian language time is perceived in the same manner while day is perceived as a container. Other translations that he offers and serve our purposes are “from life” – *prema životu, po prirodi*, “from before” – *otprije*, “from on high” – *odozgo, s visine*, “from under” – *ispod*, “apart from” – *bez obzira na* (Filipović, 1999, p. 446). In Password, an English dictionary for speakers of Croatian, a more distinctive list of meanings is provided. If from is used before a person, thing, place or time or as a starting point of an action or journey it is translated as *od, iz*. It is translated as *iz*, when used to indicate from where something or someone comes. In the sense of separation, it is translated as *od*. Likewise, it is translated as *od*, when it has the meaning of cause or reason (Kernerman semi-bilingual dictionaries, 1997, p. 263).

## 2.3 CROATIAN COUNTERPARTS *OD*, *IZ* AND *SA*

Now we will take a look at the Croatian counterparts of the English prepositions off and from. For start, we must mention the main difference between the Croatian and English language, which is the fact that the Croatian language has cases while the English language uses prepositions. However, most of the cases are used together with a preposition. The only grammatical cases in which no preposition is needed are the nominative and the vocative. Croatian prepositions can be simple, compound or prepositional phrases. Simple consist of one word, while the compound ones are combinations of two prepositions(Matovac, 2013). Prepositional phrases consist of multiple words, a preposition followed by a noun. Not all prepositions go with every grammatical case. The majority of them are followed by a noun in the genitive case. To this group belong the preposition we are going to analyze - *od*, *iz* and *sa*. They can be analyzed together also because all three of them encode spatial relations of leading away and separating from the source that is tied to the ablative in the diachronic perspective (Šarić, 2014) . Šarić mentions that it is interesting that these prepositions are not mutually interchangeable (this might be possible only in some metaphorical usages).

### **OD**

The Croatian preposition *od* is a simple preposition used with the genitive case. According to Wiktionary, it can be used in one of the following senses:

**Starting point in place or boundary of movement**

**Indicating comparison**

**Starting point in time**

**Indicating the material something is made of**

**Indicating separation**

**Indicating choice**

**Indicating cause**

The English translations of this preposition can be *away, by, from, of, off, out of, since, then, or with*.<sup>6</sup> Additional translations, offered in the Croatian-English dictionary by Bujas are *in* (as in *one in ten*), *against* (shelter against the wind), *for* and *between*. The translation depends on the sense which the preposition conveys in a particular case.

## **IZ**

Another Croatian preposition that is frequently used as a translation for prepositions off and from is *iz*. It is a simple preposition used with the genitive case. It usually goes with a perception of a container in the spatial domain (Šarić, 2014). The senses it can bear, according to Wiktionary are:

**Indicating the origin**

**Indicating time**

**Indicating cause or belief**

Additionally to the prepositions off and from, *iz* can be translated as *because of, by, for, of, on, out or out of*. In Bujas' Croatian-English dictionary the translations offered for *iz* are: *from, out of, for, of, about, hence*.

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<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.rjecnik.net/search.php?search=od> accessed August 2017

## S(A)

The Croatian preposition *s(a)* is another counterpart of the English prepositions *off* and *from*. As the other two Croatian prepositions mentioned before, it is also a simple preposition used with the genitive case but it can be used with the instrumental case as well. The use of preposition *s* with instrumental is much more frequent than with genitive (Matovac, 2013, str. 124). The senses in which the preposition *s(a)* is used are

**Indicating means or company**

**Cause**

**Indicating origin or movement from up to down**

**Time or manner of an action**

The translations that are used for this preposition are *after*, *along with*, *from*, *of*, *off* and *with*. Other translations offered by Bujas are *and* (as in *coca cola s rumom* – *cola and rum*) and *to*.

## 2.4 RESEARCH

Research was conducted in order to determine how the English prepositions *off* and *from* are translated into Croatian. The translations were extracted from various English – Croatian lexicons. The corpus consisted of 300 sentences in English for each of the two prepositions, which were then translated into Croatian. The results of the research show which of the proposed Croatian translations for the prepositions are most suitable. The translated sentences were then further analyzed to provide an explanation for the proposed translations of the preposition.

The Croatian translations for the prepositions that work the best were determined by research results and a comparison between them was made. In this research, the Croatian prepositions *od*, *iz* and *sa* were translated from 300 Croatian sentences into the English prepositions *off* or *from*. Examples of

different senses were then further analyzed. Only Croatian sentences the translation of which forms a sentence containing prepositions *off* or *from* were taken into account.

## 2.5 Hypotheses

H1: The English prepositions and the Croatian translations carry a similar meaning

H2: The Croatian translations provided for the English prepositions are ordered in the dictionaries by relevance

H3: Each English preposition has a Croatian counterpart which proves to be the best solution in the majority of cases, and the same English preposition proves to be the best solution for that Croatian counterpart

## 2.6 Methodology

Samples of three hundred random sentences were selected for each of the two studied English prepositions. This was done using the Corpus of Contemporary American English language (COCA). The prepositions were then translated into Croatian. Only sentences in which the *off* and *from* function as prepositions and the translation of which results in a Croatian sentence containing a preposition were taken into account.

The results were examined and the most common Croatian translations of the two English prepositions were used for a comparative study. For each of the Croatian prepositions, a sample of three hundred random sentences containing that preposition was compiled using the Croatian language Corpus. The prepositions were translated into the English prepositions *off* and *from* and only these sentences were taken into account in this research.

An overview of the use of the prepositions will be provided and sentences will be further analyzed in order to provide an explanation for the particular translation of each case. The overview of the Croatian counterparts will be more concise in scope because we are dealing mainly with the English prepositions. The results of the complete research will be discussed in the results part of the thesis.

### 3 PREPOSITION OFF

#### 3.1 ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES

Below is a list of meanings that the preposition *off* can express. For each of the senses, an example of an English sentence is given followed by its Croatian translation. An additional commentary about each sentence and their translation is given below.

##### 3.1.1 NOT IN CONTACT WITH

I *The wind blew the paper off the table.*

I a) *Vjetar je otpuhao list sa stola.*

*Off* is used to indicate that something is not supported by something it used to be attached to or resting on. As a table is a surface, the best preposition is *off* because a table is horizontal. In this case, the preposition does not offer the end point of the paper. The opposite of this preposition would be *on*. In this case, the best translation of this preposition in Croatian is *sa*. This preposition points to the position in which the subject has been before and that the surface is probably flat and big. *Sa* as a preposition equally does not offer an alternative where the subject might be positioned, only where it is not.



### 3.1.2 INDICATING DISTANCE IN SPACE

II *an island off the coast of Spain*<sup>7</sup>

II a) *otok nedaleko Španjolske*

II b) *otok podalje od Španjolskog*

*Off* is a spatial preposition and it can be used to describe a permanent distance between two places. For example II we have two possible Croatian translations that are equally representative but each of them for a different point of view. In example II a the translation of the preposition is *nedaleko* meaning that it is not far from Spain. In example II b the preposition *podalje od* explains that the island is further away from Spain. Although these two translations have opposite meanings both are possible because depending on the situation one would say II a if, for example, the island belongs to Spain, has steady connections with the land, is further away from another country (France for example). II B would be used to indicate that it is a very secluded island with little or no land- connection. In Croatian, the best translation would depend largely on the broader context and the position of the speaker. However, Lindstromberg explains that in this sense, describing distance, *off* is more often used when the distance is not too far, because if we wanted to indicate that it is further away, a better preposition would be *away from*.

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<sup>7</sup> Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off\\_2](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off_2) accessed on July 2017

**Near to:**

III *He lives just off the main road.*<sup>8</sup>

III a) *Živi neposredno do glavne ceste.*

III b) *Živi odmah pored glavne ceste.*

In the previous example we could see that the distance expressed using the preposition *off* might be ambiguous when translating into Croatian if one wants to describe an exact length of the distance. However, Lindstromberg states that *off* has the main meaning “not in contact with” but that this should also represent that at some time there must have been some contact. As in example II, the island might have been a part of the landmass (Lindstromberg, 2010). However, we still do not know how far it is. This can be clarified simply by using an adverb before the preposition as in example III. In this case we have two possible Croatian translations, which would indicate closeness even without the adverb. However, the adverb is there to intensify this relation and therefore it is offered in both translations. A more elegant solution proves to be example III a, but both are possible.

The notion of *near to* something which the preposition *off* can convey, is here emphasized in this way because I tried to group different senses *off* can represent into more general groups.

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<sup>8</sup> Retrieved from <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english> accessed July 2017

### 3.1.3 LEADING AWAY FROM SOMETHING

IV A village off the main road.<sup>9</sup>

IV a) Selo podalje od glavne ceste.

IV b) Selo udaljeno od glavne ceste.

Another sense *off* can represent is that of path, describing the distance mentioned in the previous part in a different manner as this can be traced back only in a few possible arrangements. This sense can seem to be very similar to the previous one but many dictionaries offer this sense separately because *off* is often used if the distance between two objects can be or is an actual path (in example II this is not possible). In the process of translating this to Croatian, the actual path is no longer as imaginable as in the English version. Here again we are confronted with the issue question of distance. Taking into account the meaning of the sentence one could conclude that the distance is not too close. Both Croatian translations are suitable fit in this case. However, taking into account what was said about describing the distance in a path form, the latter example, which is IV b would fit slightly better if we wanted would to capture the imaginability of the path. Preposition *podalje* is, in my opinion, a more static preposition, explaining only the end location meaning further away. However, *udaljeno od* is more a dynamic preposition by which we can mentally visualize the distance between the main road and the village.

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<sup>9</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/off> accessed July 2017

### 3.1.4 INDICATING MOVING UP FROM THE GROUND

I *The rocket took off*

I a) *Raketa je poletjela sa zemlje.*

Another sense in which *off* can be used is explained by Lindstromberg. He states that although *off* is usually used with a negative connotation, it can also be used in the sense of “up”. We could connect this to the previous sense, meaning moving away, but in this case, we know the exact direction in which one is moving which is *off* the ground. This is also possible because land is perceived as a big flat surface in this case. The Croatian translation needs more clarification in order to function in the same way as the English example. The best Croatian translation would be the preposition *sa*, because it is also used to indicate that something is not touching the ground anymore, probably going up, at least in this case where an alternative location is not really possible.

### 3.1.5 INDICATING SOURCE POINT

V *I bought it off a street vendor*<sup>10</sup>

V a) Kupio sam to od uličnog prodavača.

*Off* can be used to point to the source of an object, origin of a person etc. It is used in a more colloquial manner than *from*, explains Lindstromberg. Therefore, we could conclude that *off* fits better in this case because the decision seems to be made more quickly and without previous intention. The best Croatian translation, in this case, is *od*, referring to the source point.

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<sup>10</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/off> accessed July 2017

VI *The resort runs entirely off solar power...* (COCA)

VI a) Odmaralište se napaja u potpunosti na sunčevu energiju...

VI b) Odmaralište radi u potpunosti na sunčevoj energiji...

Sentence VI is another example of *off* being used to suggest a source point. This case is particularly interesting. The example stems from my research. As we mentioned before, *off* is mostly used with a negative connotation, but this is not the case here. According to Lindstromberg, in this case the preposition *on* could be used as well, but it would have a negative connotation meaning that the source point is suffering. Therefore, in this particular case using *on* would be wrong because solar energy is unlimited. The best Croatian translation for this case would be sentence VI a. This is very interesting because *na* is not offered as a translation of *off* in any of the dictionaries we have consulted. Moreover, *na* is actually the best translation of *on*. Although sentence VI a is the best translation, VI b could be a satisfying translation, but its connotation is slightly negative suggesting that it spends the energy.

### 3.1.6 INDICATING DISTANCE IN TIME

VII *Scientists are still a long way off finding a cure.*<sup>11</sup>

VII a) Znanstvenici su još uvijek daleko od pronalaska lijeka.

We can use *off* to represent distance in time as well. In the English language, time is here depicted as a surface and the path that needs to be crossed is still long. The best translation for this case is *daleko od*, which is used for space and time in the Croatian language. This shows that both English and Croatian have a similar representation of time.

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<sup>11</sup> Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off\\_2](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off_2) accessed July 2017

### 3.1.7 INDICATING DEVIATION FROM A STANDARD STATE

VIII *I was off my golf game.*<sup>12</sup>

VIII a) *Bio sam izvan forme.*

As the subtitle indicates *off* represents a relation in which a certain state of behavior, emotions or quality is not at a standard or expected level. In example VI, we can notice that in English these relations are perceived as a vertical line. In Croatian, this is perceived more as a state and therefore the preposition *izvan* is the best solution in this case because the player is outside his usual state.

In English, *off* has a negative connotation. Lindstromberg explains that using *off* with a physical Landmark means “bad smelling” as in “*the milk is off*”, and when the landmark is abstract as in example VIII it means not up to standard.

### 3.1.8 INDICATING AN END OF A PREVIOUS STATE

*Off* can be used to indicate that a previous state no longer exists. We divided it into two subgroups. One is when a state, behavior or object is absent permanently or for a determined time. Another is when the subject is abstaining from a state, behavior or object but for this to be possible, a certain effort must be involved.

#### **ABSENT :**

IX *‘The doctor has given me a week off work to rest and recuperate.’*

IX a) Doktor mi je dao slobodan tjedan od posla za odmor.

IX b) Doktor mi je dao slobodan tjedan za odmor.

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<sup>12</sup>Retrieved from <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/off> accessed on 15th July 2017

In this particular example, the subject normally goes to work every day and the preposition *off* suggests that this behavior will not be present for a week. Lindstromberg explains that in the ancient times a particular activity was perceived as a physical location, therefore the expression “catch soldiers off guard” suggests that they were absent from their guarding position. The best Croatian translation in this case would be sentence IX a, although it is quite literal it is the only that contains all the necessary information. Sentence IX b is maybe better suited and more in the spirit of the Croatian language but it offers no preposition. “Tjedan bez posla” would be another possible solution, but it slightly changes the meaning of the sentence as the preposition *bez* invokes a state of permanency.

#### **ABSTAINING:**

X *He's finally off drugs*<sup>13</sup>

X a) Napokon se skinuo sa droge.

X b) Napokon je odustao od droge.

In this sentence *off* is used to represent abstention from a previous behavior. *Off* is used here because it also has a sense of gradualness, which indicates that a certain time was needed to reach this state. In the Croatian language, this gradualness is somehow represented with the use of the preposition *odustati od* in this verb phrase. According to Brala Vukanović and Memišević (2014), this verb belongs to the group of away/closure sense, meaning that it has a sense of movement, literal or metaphorical, and closure and completion of an activity. Sentence X a is more informal and therefore sentence X b would be the best translation.

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<sup>13</sup> Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off\\_2](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/off_2) accessed July 2017

### 3.1.9 HAVING A TEMPORARY DISLIKE OF

XI *I am off coffee.*

XI a) Zabranili su mi kavu.

XI b) Prestao sam piti kavu.

Although the sense of abstaining was explored in the previous section, we mentioned that for this kind of behavior a certain effort is needed. Therefore, we decided to explain this notion, which is often elucidated by many dictionaries, separately. Because in this sense, in example XI a, the person is not abstaining from something because of his own will. In this case we do not have a preposition in the Croatian translation. Instead of the preposition, the object is put in the dative. In example XI b, the person is abstaining from coffee of his own will. However, he might not be doing so only of his own will but for some additional reasons, for example, some health issues. In this case, however, he would still need some effort to achieve this and we could place this translation in the previous section where this sense of off is explained. Nonetheless, it might just be the case that for some unknown reasons coffee is no longer enjoyable to this person and he needs no effort at all to avoid it.



## 4 PREPOSITION FROM

### 4.1 ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES

In this part of the thesis, we are going to explore and explain all of the senses which *from* can convey, which were already listed in the introductory part of the thesis. For each sense we provide an example and the possible Croatian translation(s), which is further analyzed beneath it.

#### 4.1.1 INDICATING A STARTING POINT IN TIME

II We're open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day<sup>14</sup>

II a) Otvoreni smo od 8 do 19 svaki dan

From is used to indicate a starting point in time. In the English language time is perceived as a line. In example I one could image a line with two points. In Croatian we have a very similar situation. In the Croatian translation preposition *od* is used because it is used to indicate the starting point for a duration of a period of time.

#### 4.1.2 INDICATING STARTING POINT IN PLACE

III Has the train from Bristol arrived?<sup>15</sup>

III a) Je li stigao vlak iz Bristola?

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

From is used to indicate a starting point in place. In this case it is the starting point of a train route. This is the initial sense of *from* meaning the opposite of *to* (Lindstromberg, 2010). Lindstromberg explains that this basic meaning refers back to the origin. In this thesis we separated these two senses of the preposition *from* because of the way in which they are perceived by the English speakers. In this case, the origin of the train, Bristol, is seen as a point in space, as on a map. The best Croatian translation in this case would be the preposition *iz*, referring to the starting point. The main difference here is in the perception, while in the English language the starting point is perceived merely as a point on a map, in the Croatian language the preposition *iz* hints at the perception that a city is a more complex structure, being perceived more as a container than a point.

### 4.1.3 INDICATING ORIGIN

IV They came from Africa.

IV a) Došli su iz Afrike.

We mentioned in the previous section that *from* can be used to refer back to one's origin. In this case the difference between this sense and the sense of starting point in place is, as previously mentioned, in perception. Here, the origin is not seen as a point, but as a surface. In Lindstromberg's English prepositions explained, he also compares this sense of *from* with the preposition *of*, because the Landmark is seen as a surface as well, only that with *of* there is a strong connection between them (see difference between *People from America* and *People of America.*) , while with *from* it has merely the function of a starting point. In example III it means that these people were in Africa, but they are not there anymore. The Croatian translation in this case is the preposition *iz* indicating also that the surface

is large and wide. However, as in the previous example II a, *iz* evokes here a slightly different perception than *from*, meaning that the landmark is perceived more as a container, and therefore pointing to a stronger connection. However, without further context, both example III and its translation refer only to the fact that the people are not in Africa anymore.

#### 4.1.4 USED FOR DESCRIBING MATERIAL

V Early pottery was made from earth and animal waste.<sup>16</sup>

V a) Rana lončarija pravljena je od zemlje i životinjskog otpada.

From can be used to indicate the material of which something is made. *From* is used in this sense because certain distance must be crossed, metaphorically, in order to achieve the final product. Lindstromberg explains this distance on the example of vinegar and apple juice, in which a certain amount of time must pass until the apple juice becomes vinegar, by which its taste and chemical composition change significantly. Lindstromberg explains that the preposition *of* can be used in this sense as well but in this case there is no significant change of the chemical composition.

In example IV there might be no obvious significant change of the chemical composition in the final product, except maybe that the two parts must be combined in a certain manner to achieve a good final product. The Croatian translation in this case is the preposition *od* because it is used in Croatian to describe what something is made from.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/from>

#### 4.1.5 USED FOR DISTANCE

VI *We're about a mile from home.*<sup>17</sup>

VI a) *Udaljeni smo otprilike milju od kuće.*

VI b) *Nalazimo se otprilike milju od kuće.*

From is used to indicate distance between two objects or points in space. This distance can be physical, as it is in example V. The main meaning of *from*, according to Lindstromberg is *not to*. In this sense example V can bear the meanings that they are still very far away or that they are already far from home, depending on the direction they are moving in. However, taking into account what we already said, that is, that *from* means *not to*, they are probably not moving towards home. They could be moving away from home in the opposite direction, but they could be, as well, passing a mile from home, on their way from a to b. There are two possible Croatian translations, both with preposition *od*. However, in example V a the sense evoked is more that of moving away from the home, because the Croatian verb *udaljiti* has an away sense, according to Brala Vukonović and Memišević (2012), which means that “this sense indicates movement, both literal and metaphorical, away from the point of reference” (Brala-Vukanović & Memišević, 2012, p. 48). Example V b bears more the meaning of passing a mile from home, on the path from A to B, because it merely states the position of the speaker in a static manner.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/from>

#### 4.1.6 USED FOR RANGE

VII *The temperature varies from 30 degrees to minus 20.*<sup>18</sup>

VII a) *Temperatura varira od 30 stupnjeva do minus 20.*

We use preposition *from* also for indicating range. In this case preposition *from* is used together with the preposition *to*. This is used to indicate the starting point and the end point. In the English language, when indicating range, it is perceived as a closed container, having two boundaries and all the measures between them. In the Croatian language the preposition *od* is used together with the preposition *do* in this case. However, in the Croatian language, range is perceived more as a horizontal line than a container.

#### 4.1.7 USED FOR POSITION OR POINT OF VIEW

VIII *You can see the island from here.*<sup>19</sup>

VIII a) *Možete vidjeti otok odavde.*

Preposition *from* can be used for expressing one's position or point of view. The point of view can be physical or metaphorical. In example VII preposition *from* indicates a physical point of view. In this sense the viewer is the starting point and it indicates another feature of preposition *from* which is that the path is not limited, that is that one can move in any direction, in this case that of the viewer eyes. The best Croatian translation is the preposition *odavde* indicating the starting point of the perception and the path being ambivalent, possible to move in any direction.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

#### 4.1.8 INDICATING CAUSE

IX *She felt sick from tiredness.*<sup>20</sup>

IX a) Osjećala se bolesno od umora.

*From* can be used to indicate what caused something. We could compare this sense to the one of *from* being used to describe the material something is made of. These senses are similar in the way they are perceived. In example VIII we have a state, which is *tiredness* which lead or changed to the feeling of sickness. In the Croatian language this is even more obvious. Therefore, the best translation for this sense would be the Croatian preposition *od* because in this particular example a certain state lead to another state.

#### 4.1.9 INDICATING CHANGE

X *He went from a criminal to an upright citizen.*

X a) *Od kriminalca je postao uzoran građanin.*

X b) *Iz kriminalca se promjenio u uzornog građanina.*

*From* can be used to indicate a change in form or behavior. In example IX the preposition *from* is used together with the preposition *to*, which we have encountered in one of the before mentioned senses, that is in the sense of range. In this example, the two prepositions again are used to indicate a range, this time in a metaphorical sense. One could imagine a container with a set of behaviors ranging from criminal to that of an upright citizen. However, this could mean that one excludes the other. *From* is

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

used here also because we use it as a starting point of a path, whether actual or metaphorical. Therefore, this could be perceived as a vertical scale, as well. There are two possible Croatian translations for this example. In example IX a the preposition *od* is used. *Od* can be used to indicate a starting point on a (metaphorical) path, just like *from* in the English language. However, *od* is also used to describe what something is made from and therefore it points to a stronger connection with the word criminal. This could point to a negative connotation, while in example IX b the preposition *iz* is used in combination with the preposition *u*. In this case a perception of two separate containers is elucidated and one has the feeling that the boundaries are more rigid and that the change is more permanent. Therefore, the best translation would depend on the connotation the author would like to evoke.

#### 4.1.10 USED FOR COMPARISON

XI *I can't tell one twin from the other.*<sup>21</sup>

XI a) *Ne mogu razlikovati jednog blizanca od drugog.*

We can use the preposition *from* in comparison, as well. According to Lindstromberg, *from* and its antonym *to*, can be used almost interchangeably in this sense, although this is mostly the case in British English. Lindstromberg explains that this is possible because, in regards to comparison, both *from* and *to* focus on a metaphorical separation or distance between A or B". (Lindstromberg, 2010, p. 47). The best Croatian translation in this case is the preposition *od*. It is perceived in a similar manner as *from* is in the English language. It focuses on the metaphorical distance as well, meaning that it cannot separate them.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/from>

#### 4.1.11 INDICATING „NOT TO“

*XII How to stop a cat from clawing furniture?, (Lindstromberg, 2010)p 46*

*XII a) Kako zaustaviti mačku od grebanja namještaja?*

Finally, we are going to analyze another sense *from* can bear. It is the sense of „not to“, which is actually the literal meaning of *from* (being the opposite of *to* hence meaning „not to“). However, after analyzing the senses we mentioned before, one might be compelled with understanding *from* in this sense, according to Lindstromberg. In example XI we can see that one wants to keep the cat in a certain position, which is not in contact with the furniture. This sense of *from* differs from the other senses in the fact that the person does not just want the cat to go away from the furniture but not to come near it in the first place. In this sense *from* has a more static meaning but there is an urge for movement towards the landmark. The best Croatian translation would be the preposition *od*. This preposition can be used in the sense of boundary of movement, which is similar to the notion of „not to“.



## 5 CROATIAN COUNTERPARTS

In this part of the thesis we are going to give a short overview with examples for the most relevant senses preposition *od*, *iz* and *sa* can convey.

### 5.1 OD

#### 5.1.1 STARTING POINT OR BOUNDARY OF MOVEMENT

*XIII "...tiskanih gotovo u svim tadašnjim europskim zemljama Zapada, od Mletačke Republike, Švicarske i Francuske do Njemačke, Nizozemske i Španjolske"*

*XIII a) Published almost in every contemporary European Western country, from the Republic of Venice, Swiss Republic and France to Germany, the Netherlands and Spain.*

The preposition *od* can be used to indicate the starting point in place or boundary of movement. In example XII the sense of starting point of place is represented. The translation we used is the preposition *from* because it is used together with the preposition *to* in the same manner as the Croatian prepositional pair *od* and *do*. We used *from* in this case because it is used to indicate that the subject can move in any direction and therefore one could imagine the spread of these books all over the countries and within them.

#### 5.1.2 STARTING POINT IN TIME

*XIV. Od XII. do XVI. stoljeća.*

*XIV a) From the XII to the XVI century*

This is another sense of preposition *od* which is an equivalent to the prepositions *from* and *off* because both can be used for describing a starting point in time. In this case, we can use only the preposition

from In example XIII a one would perceive it as a timeline which is static and precisely marked from the starting point to the end point.

### 5.1.3 INDICATING SEPARATION

XV *Miris duhana odbio ih je od ulaska.*

XV a) *The smell of tobacco put them off entering.*

*Od* can be used to indicate separation or detachment from the landmark. In this particular example the separation might not be as clear. However, we mentioned before that the preposition *off* can be used to indicate having a dislike of something and leading away from something. Here we can use *off* in both senses. But, the first sense, having a dislike of something, is more evident. We can notice here that the subject had a desire to go to that place and that the smell of tobacco made them change their opinion.

### 5.1.4 INDICATING CAUSE

XVI *Među ozlijeđenima je i 35 ljudi koji su stradali od zalutalih metaka.*

XVI a) *Among the injured were also 35 people who were injured by stray bullets.*

Preposition *od* can be used to indicate the cause of something. It is perceived as a source to which we can connect everything. The English preposition that would be best in this situation is *by*. The preposition *by* is used in the passive voice here, indicating that the Landmark is an agent or a reason/cause (Lindstromberg, 2010, p. 144). Therefore, in this case, we find out that the stray bullets function as agents explaining that they caused the injury.

### 5.1.5 INDICATING COMPARISON

XVII *'Vani smo bolji, a oni ne mogu puno bolje od ovog što su odigrali danas'*<sup>22</sup>

XVII a) *We are better outside, and they cannot do much better than they played today.*

Another sense in which *od* can be used is for comparison. As we mentioned before in the case of comparing two things *od* focuses on a metaphorical distance that needs to be reached in order for the two to be same. The best English translation would be without a preposition. The Croatian comparison “*puno bolje*” needs the preposition *od* while in the English language this is handled by the conjunction *than* which is used to introduce the second part of the comparison.

### 5.1.6 INDICATING THE MATERIAL SOMETHING IS MADE OF

XVIII *“..da se na slavu ovoga umětnika spomenik od kararskog mramora stavi” (from)*

XVIII a) *“..In honor of this artist a monument from/of Caracas marble to be placed.”*

*Od* is used to indicate the material from which something can be made. In this case we can use either the preposition *from* or *of*. However, as we explained in the previous part of the thesis, *from* is used when the process of making something leads to a significant change, such as a change in chemical substance. However, in this case the monument would be just carved from a piece of marble. Therefore, *of* would be a slightly better solution. Although, carving marble is timeconsuming and therefore *from* could be used as well.

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<sup>22</sup> [http://riznica.ihjj.hr/philocgi-bin/showrest\\_?conc.6.1.12148.584900.584999.Cijelien](http://riznica.ihjj.hr/philocgi-bin/showrest_?conc.6.1.12148.584900.584999.Cijelien)

## 5.2 IZ

### 5.2.1 INDICATING ORIGIN

XIX “..a da se oni vrate kućama iz Iraka«, rekla gotovo u suzama. “

XIX a) “..and that they come home from Iraq – she said almost in tears.”

The preposition *iz* can be used to indicate one’s origin that is a starting point in place. The best translation would be the preposition *from* because it is used to indicate the starting point in place but also because it is used for indicating that one wants to go away in the opposite direction. As we mentioned before, the main difference is in the perception. *Iz* goes with a landmark that is perceived as a container, while *from* is used more with a landmark that is shaped as a point.

### 5.2.2 INDICATING TIME

XX “..iznosa bruto premija iz 2006. godine na neživotna se osiguranja odnosi...”

XX a) “...amount of the gross premiums from 2006. on non-life insurance refers to..”

The preposition *iz* can be used for indicating time. In the Croatian language we perceive a year as a container while in the English language time is perceived as a line. The best translation is *from* because the starting point is perceived as a point in time.

### 5.2.3 INDICATING CAUSE OR BELIEF

XXI                   “...kritičko mišljenje iskače iz glavne nekritičke ili dogmatske struje mišljenja..”

XXI a)               “...critical thinking jumps out of the main uncritical or dogmatic stream of thought..”

The preposition *iz* can be used to indicate cause or belief. Again, we have the perception of a container here, but this time the container is the person herself, expressing her feelings and thoughts from the depth of her heart and brain. In the English language they do not perceive their hearts or brains as containers but more as sources. In example XXI a we used the preposition *out of* because the noun stream is used in the sentence and we are connecting it to this in a metaphorical sense.

## 5.3 SA

### 5.3.1 INDICATING MEANS OR COMPANY

XXII    ...kao podrhtavalo od dodira sa sjajnim zrakama, što su raskošno točile...

XXII a)    ...As flickered at the touch of shiny beams, that lavishly poured...

Preposition *sa* is used to indicate means or company. In this sense the preposition *sa* is used mostly with the instrumental case. In example XXII a we used the preposition *of* because the basic use of this preposition is to indicate that the Subject and Landmark are integrated as a whole (Lindstromberg, 2010, p. 206). Therefore, the shiny beams are a feature of the subject. Lindstormberg further explained all the types of integration *of* can represent when considering how two parts can be integrated. In this

particular example it would be the relation of source – product.<sup>23</sup>The shiny beams are a product of something. Because of that it is considered as a means for something and *of* serves as the best translation of this example.

### 5.3.2 INDICATING ORIGIN OR MOVEMENT FROM UP TO DOWN

XXIII ..netrpljivost, te skoči sa stolca.

XXIII a) *Impatience, and jumps off the chair.*

XXIV A sa glasovira javi se kao jedan neizrecivi i svemogući

XXIV a) *He answered from the piano as one unspeakable and almighty*

The preposition *sa* is used to indicate the origin that is the source of place as well as movement from up to down. In example XXII the movement from up to down is not as visible but if one jumps then he is behind moving up from the chair and down again. In example XXIII the piano is big and flat, it is also the source from which he is answering and therefore, the preposition *from* is used. In XXII both *from* and *off* could be used, but *off* is a better solution because it indicates that something went up off the chair. *From* would suggest that the chair is bigger than the subject.

### 5.3.3 CAUSE

XXV Sa prolaznosti srce me ne peče

XXV a) *From transience my heart is not burning*

The preposition *sa* can be used to indicate that something was caused by something. Matovac states that in this use also the notion of concurrence is important. It is happening simultaneously with the

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<sup>23</sup> Lindstromberg mentions additionally the types of integration such as: intrinsic; nearly intrinsic; part – whole; product – source; act(ion) – agent; act(ion) – patient; subset – set; example – type; group/amount/unit – entities/stuff/emotion/action; content, features, denizens – (Nominally) bounded areas of space (Lindstromberg, 2010, p. 208)

other. Therefore, a real sequence of cause and effect cannot be clearly imaginable. Because it indicates cause, we opted for the English preposition *from*. However, if we were to perceive it as a sense of manner the preposition *with* would also be suitable in this translation.

#### 5.3.4 TIME OR MANNER OF AN ACTION

XXVI *S jednostavnim rješenjem nema složenih pitanja.*

XXVI a) *With a simple solution come no complicated questions.*

XXVII *S proljećem se vraćaju ptice.*

XXVII a) *With spring the birds come back.*

The preposition *sa* can be used to indicate the starting time or the manner in which an action is completed. In example XXVI we can notice that the preposition *s* is used with a negative *nema* enhancing the fact that the two words *jednostavnim rješenjem* are forming an alliance. In the English translation we used the preposition *with*, because these two things need to participate together in order to avoid complicated questions. In example XXVII the sense of time is being presented, referring that these two things are happening simultaneously. However, when using the preposition *with* the association between the two things is not as strong connected with each other as when using the preposition *of*, but it merely indicates that they go along.

## 6 RESEARCH RESULTS

### 6.1 OFF AND FROM

In the introductory part of this thesis we explored *off* and *from*. We saw that *from* functions solely as a preposition, while *off* can be used also as an adverb, adjective, noun, verb, suffix and abbreviation. However, when we started to explore the senses they can convey, we found that *from* has a slightly wider range of different uses compared to *off*. All in all, we found that *off* can be used in 9 different senses, while the preposition *from* carries 11 different meanings. The senses overlap to some degree. Let us take a look at the senses we have analyzed side by side. They are ordered by similarity of meaning.

| OFF  | FROM                               |
|--|------------------------------------|
| NOT IN CONTACT WITH                        | INDICATING “NOT TO”                |
| INDICATING DISTANCE IN SPACE               | USED FOR DISTANCE                  |
| INDICATING SOURCE POINT                    | INDICATING ORIGIN                  |
| LEADING AWAY FROM SOMETHING                | INDICATING STARTING POINT IN PLACE |
| MOVING UP FROM THE GROUND                  | USED FOR POSITION OR POINT OF VIEW |
| INDICATING DISTANCE IN TIME                | INDICATING STARTING POINT IN TIME  |
| INDICATING DEVIATION FROM A STANDARD STATE | USED FOR COMPARISON                |
| INDICATING AN END OF A PREVIOUS STATE      | INDICATING CHANGE                  |
| HAVING A TEMPORARY DISLIKE OF              | INDICATING CAUSE                   |
|  | USED FOR RANGE                     |
|  | USED FOR DESCRIBING MATERIAL       |



As we can notice in the table above, the labels we give to different senses are not the same for both prepositions because of the fact that they are not perceived in the same manner. However, we do have some overlap in meaning between them, such as the senses of *off*: use for origin and distance in space, leading away from something and distance in time with the senses of *from* : indicating source point, used for distance, indicating starting point in place and indicating starting point in time. These senses are very close to each other and in some cases *off* and *from* can be used interchangeably in some of them. The senses in which *off* and *from* cannot be easily interchanged are those of indicating deviation from a standard state or end of a previous state. However, it can be to some degree changed to the sense of indicating change or cause. The senses that are particularly tied to one of the two prepositions are for *off* the sense of having a temporary dislike, and for *from* the use for range and the use for describing the material. However, further analysis of other prepositions would probably find that in these senses some other prepositions might be used as well, as we mentioned in some of the analysis and was explored in more detail in Lindstromberg's English prepositions explained.

We explored the Croatian counterparts which can be used with each preposition. For that we translated 300 sentences in which the prepositions *off* or *from* appeared. The sentences were taken from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Below is a table with the results for the preposition *off* showing all the Croatian counterparts which occurred in our study, the number of occurrences and the percentage.

**Table 1: Preposition off**

| Croatian equivalent                      | Number of occurrences | Percentage |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>sa</b>                                | 160                   | 53,3%      |
| <b>od</b>                                | 43                    | 14,3%      |
| <b>nedaleko</b>                          | 22                    | 7,3%       |
| <b>izvan</b>                             | 18                    | 6,0%       |
| <b>van</b>                               | 14                    | 4,7%       |
| <b>iz</b>                                | 13                    | 4,3%       |
| <b>udaljeno od</b>                       | 7                     | 2,3%       |
| <b>podalje</b>                           | 6                     | 2,0%       |
| <b>dalje</b>                             | 6                     | 2,0%       |
| <b>na</b>                                | 5                     | 1,7%       |
| <b>postrani</b>                          | 2                     | 0,7%       |
| <b>odatle</b>                            | 2                     | 0,7%       |
| <b>No preposition, put in the dative</b> | 1                     | 0,3%       |
| <b>pored</b>                             | 1                     | 0,3%       |

In Table 1 we can see all possible 14 translations for the preposition *off*. As we may notice, in our research the Croatian translational equivalent which proved to fit the best in more than half of the translated sentences is the preposition *sa*. This is not surprising given that the main sense of *sa* corresponds to the main sense of *off* which proves to be “not in contact with”. The second most frequent preposition is *od*, but with a significantly smaller number of 43 occurrences in 300 sentences, that is 14%. The most interesting finding might be the fact that preposition *off* can be translated as *na*, because we did not find this translation offered in any of the dictionaries we consulted. Although it appeared on only 5 occasions, it still proved to be more frequent than some of the other translations mentioned in the dictionary such as *postrani*, *odatle* and *pored*.

The order in which the mentioned translations are listed in the dictionaries, according to this research, is not by frequency. At least this is the case with Filipović’s dictionary. However, he opted for grouping the

translations according to senses they convey, and in the first sense, for motion, he listed *od*, *odavle*, *odatle*, *dalje*, *iz* and *sa*. Moreover, they might be listed in alphabetical order as well. In the Password dictionary, the translations are also listed according to the senses they can convey. The preposition *s(a)* is there listed first together with the preposition *od*, followed by the sense *koji odbija, zabranjen* and lastly by the preposition *iz*. Although there the translations are listed by frequency which correlates with the one we found in our research, it lacks many of the possible translations. Moreover, it is important to mention that neither of the two dictionaries offers *na* as a possible translation, but the use of the dative is mentioned by both.

**Table 2: From**

| Croatian equivalent                  | Number of occurrences | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>od</b>                            | 156                   | 52,0%      |
| <b>iz</b>                            | 83                    | 27,0%      |
| <b>sa</b>                            | 39                    | 13,0%      |
| <b>No preposition, put in dative</b> | 16                    | 5,3%       |
| <b>odakle</b>                        | 4                     | 1,3%       |
| <b>u</b>                             | 2                     | 0,7%       |

As we may notice, *od* proves to be the most frequent translation for the preposition *from* with 156 occurrences out of 300 sentences in this research. The next most frequent translation is the preposition *iz* with 27%, followed by the preposition *sa* with 13%. In 5% of the sentences, we used the dative instead of a preposition, while the prepositions *odakle* and *u* occurred in about 1% of sentences. In Filipović's English-Croatian dictionary the translations are ordered in the same order as they appeared in our research. However, some of the translations he offered did not appear at all in our research, such as *po*, *o*, *odozgo*, *otprije*, *između*, *daleko od*, *kroz* and other. In the Password dictionary, only prepositions *od* and *iz* are offered, although *sa* proved to be used in 13% of sentences in our research.

## 6.2 CROATIAN COUNTERPARTS *OD*, *IZ* AND *SA*

Table 3: Croatian counterparts

|      | od  | iz    | sa    |
|------|-----|-------|-------|
| off  | 30% | 24,3% | 54,3% |
|      | 90  | 73    | 163   |
| from | 70% | 75,7% | 45,7% |
|      | 210 | 227   | 137   |

In Table 3 the results of the second part of the research are presented. We translated 300 sentences for each Croatian preposition into the English preposition *off* or *from*. Although other English prepositions can be used as the translation for the Croatian preposition *od*, *iz* and *sa*, only sentences which were translated as *off* and *from* were taken into account. The best equivalent for the preposition *od* proved to be the English preposition *from*, used in exactly 70% of the sentences, while *off* appeared only in 30%. The Croatian preposition *iz* also was more often translated as *from*, that is, in more than 75% of cases. *Iz* was translated as *off* in less than 25% of sentences. The preposition *sa* is translated almost equally frequently as *off* and as *from*. In almost 55% of occurrences it was translated as *off*, and as *from* in a little more than 45% of instances. However, even though *from* might seem as the best translation for the prepositions *od* and *iz*, and *off* for the preposition *sa*, this is only true when comparing prepositions *off* or *from*. Moreover, these Croatian prepositions can be translated as other English prepositions such as *with*, *of*, *out of* etc; but we did not study this in detail, and sentences which lead to such translations were not taken into account.

## 7 CONCLUSION

In this thesis we explored the English prepositions *off* and *from* and their Croatian counterparts. We conducted a study in which we translated 300 sentences in which *off* and *from* appear, to gain some insight into the possible translations of these prepositions. Further, we studied the most frequent Croatian counterparts in the same manner.

At the start of our research, we proposed some hypotheses. The first of our hypotheses was that the English and the Croatian prepositions carry a similar meaning. This proved to be true, which we thoroughly investigated in the sentence analysis part of this thesis. We offered a detailed explanation of why a certain preposition was used and the perception it can create. We then compared the perception each sentence evokes and the meaning it can convey. Moreover, we discovered that although the sense in which the two prepositions, the English preposition and its Croatian counterpart, are used is similar, the perception they evoke in the mind of the speaker and listener might be utterly different.

Further, we hypothesized that the translations offered in the dictionaries for the two English prepositions will be ordered by the frequency of appearance. However, as we stated under the research results part of this thesis this proved not to be the case. The translations offered in the dictionaries largely depend on the type of the dictionary itself - while some offer only the most prominent translations for the prepositions, other offer detailed lists ordered by the sense in which the preposition can be used. Notwithstanding, none of the dictionaries we consulted offered the preposition *na* as a possible translation for the preposition *off*, which proved to be a possible translation of preposition *off* in more than 5% of the 300 sentences we translated. Moreover, some of the translations proposed in the dictionary did not appear at all in our research and therefore we think that further research in this field is needed.

Our last hypothesis was that each preposition will have a Croatian counterpart which proves to be the best solution in the majority of cases, and that that same English preposition proves to be the best solution for that Croatian counterpart. This proves to be partially true. In the case of the preposition *from od* proved to be the best solution in the majority of cases, and in the case of the prepositions *off* this proved to be its Croatian counterpart *sa*. However, in the case of the preposition *sa*, both *off* and *from* proved to be almost equally good. Therefore, we cannot state that one English preposition can have an absolute Croatian counterpart that proves to be the best weather we translate from English into Croatian or vice versa.

Finally, in this thesis we addressed many senses of *off* and *from* and compared them to the most frequent Croatian counterparts. We offered also some insight into the senses in which the Croatian counterpart can be used. However, we did so only for the Croatian prepositions that proved to be the best translations for both of the English prepositions. Further research should be conducted in order to analyze as many possible translations of these (and other prepositions) to gain further understanding of the similarities and differences in perception between the English and Croatian language.

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## **9 List of tables**

### **Table 1: Preposition off**

**- Research results for preposition off - statistic data about the Croatian counterpart**

### **Table 2: From**

**- Research results for preposition from - statistic data about the Croatian counterpart**

### **Table 3: Croatian counterparts**

**- Research results for the Croatian counterparts – statistic data about the English prepositions**