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In 1844, Henri Weil, a French classical scholar, published an important monograph *De l'ordre des mots dans les langues anciennes comparées aux langues modernes*. Weil was a true pioneer in the study of word order, bridging the gap between "the movement of ideas" and "the syntactical movement" (Weil 1974: 11-12).⁴

Later on, it was evidently Weil's ideas that inspired Vilém Mathesius who went further developed by him. In Mathesius' view word order placement, *řazení slov*, is a system characterized by a hierarchy of word order principles. The hierarchy is exemplified by the extent to, and the manner in, which the preposition *protože* 'because' (Firkus' translation of Mathesius 1947: 327; see Firkus 1974: 160-1) functions. He stressed his conception of Czech word order, three other Czech scholars (Čadež, Šat and Trávníček) had proved to be aware of the relevance to word order as well as a so-called functional approach, speaking of "the psycholinguistic region" and "psychological predicate" (Firkus 1974: 14). In harmony with these researches, Mathesius claims that in communication "the lexical and grammatical elements of language are made to serve a special purpose imposed on them by the speaker in the moment of utterance, i.e. the very act of communication" (Mathesius 1947: 327).

In his numerous papers, Mathesius endeavored to provide the meaning principles rendering English word order: he "aligns the meaning axis to the grammatical principle, ranking RNP only with factors of word-order organization" (Firkus 1974: 17).

Further research on the position of word order in the Czech language showed that besides word order (and intonation in spoken language), *řazení slov* operates as an effective means of FSI.

In 1964, Jan Firkus published a paper on functional sentence perspective, introducing the concept of communicative dynamism (CD) in the analysis of Czech. Firkus of CD as "the extent to which the elements contribute towards the development of the communication" (Firkus 1964: 290). As it has been pointed out by Firkus, Firkus' understanding a sentence as a field of distribution of CD (communicational

⁴ For functional sentence perspective. For the abbreviated expression see the list of abbreviations (Firkus 1974: 53).

⁵ English translation, titled *The Order of Words in the Ancient Languages Compared with that of Modern Languages*, was published in 1875 in Boston (Under 1974: 11-12).

⁶ Weil's contemporary, Hungarian scholar Miklós Bencz, was the first to make word order differences between Hungarian and Indo-European languages and to reveal that word order in Hungarian sentences is related to a tension between a topic and a comment (Bencz 1969: 106-107). Following the lead of his German teacher, a German general linguist and Slavist, Bencz was one of the first scholars that took the distinction between a so-called "psychological subject" and "psychological object".