Czech and Slovak Typesetting Rules
Differences and Settings for CONTEXT

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This contribution deals with comparison of the rules in Czech and Slovak languages. Some of these items in Czech and Slovak differ considerably from those in other languages. All important items have been compared with facilities in the typesetting system ConTeXt and it seems that some situations have not been covered in configuration files. Therefore, several suggestions for language settings have been made in order to make CONTEXT more general and comfortable for ordinary users.

ConTeXt, Czech, Slovak, comparison of typesetting rules, settings; quotation marks, list, footnote.

Introduction

Typesetting rules for Czech and for Slovak language have been developed for more than one hundered years. Before 1989, the professional norm ON 88 2503 (formerly ČSN 88 2503) was the only one document describing exactly the most important set of typesetting rules. With a few exceptions, it could used for both languages. It was the boom of computers in the middle of 1990's which caused that the technology for text processing and typesetting became suddenly available for everyone who started these activities while not having the necessary knowledge and skills. For until that time the education in typesetting and document processing based on this official document was available only to people attending secondary technical schools or secondary business schools.

As a typesetting system should be user friendly, the aim of this paper is to compare how the default configuration of ConTeXt reflects Czech and Slovak rules and needs. To determine these rules and needs, traditional (and proper) typesetting rules are considered.[1]

For this paper three basic and commonly used typesetting topics were chosen:

(a) quotation marks;
(b) footnotes;
(c) list environment.

Quotation marks

In Czech and Slovak languages, text in quotation marks is enclosed in the same way:

> text „text ‚text' text" text

The example shows two levels of quotation marks, the basic level as well as the nested one. The first tested version of ConTeXt (TeXlive, 2010) contained only the settings for Czech language whereas for Slovak language the default settings ('American English') was used.

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[1] The situation now is a bit confusing, official current Czech and Slovak technical norms (ČSN 01 6910, STN 01 6910) are dealing with typewriting, or with text processing but not with typesetting.

Users' definitions

One can use the simple way of settings – for TᴇXlive 2010:

```
\setupdelimitedtext
 [quotation][1][left={„}, right={"}]
\setupdelimitedtext
 [quotation][2][left={‚}, right={'}]
```

which have the influence on macros \quotation and \quote, respectively.

Since TᴇXlive 2012, setup command for a delimited text needs only two parameters, so both macros have to be set independently:

```
\setupdelimitedtext
 [quotation][left={„}, right={"}]
\setupdelimitedtext
 [quote][left={‚}, right={'}]
```

System solution

This way means to change the language definition (\installlanguage) on a lang-def.mkiv. For Slovak the following was proposed:

```
\installlanguage
 [\s!sk]
 [...
 \c!leftquote=\lowerleftsingleninequote,
 \c!rightquote=\upperrightsinglesixquote,
 \c!leftquotation=\lowerleftdoubleninequote,
 \c!rightquotation=\upperrightdoublesixquote,
 ...]
```

Since 2013 it has been included into the default settings.

Footnotes

In Czech and Slovak typesetting, footnote numbers introducing the footnote text are located *in* the text area, not outside, as in the default setting[2].

All numbers should be aligned to the right; three-figure-long numbers are assumed. The text of a footnote is joined with a number by fixed thin space.

Solution for old versions of ConTᴇXt

For ConTᴇXt in TᴇXlive 2010 and 2011, the following piece of code gives the expected result:

```
\def\myftnnumber#1{%
 \high{\hbox to 1.5em{{#1}}}}
\setupfootnotes
 [numbercommand=\myftnnumber]
\setupfootnotedefinition
 [location="", distance=-1.1875em]
```

Solution for current versions of ConTᴇXt

The way how footnotes can be designed has been changed but since the above given solution does not work, the following piece of code is recommended for Czech and Slovak.[3]

```
\setupnotation [footnote]
 [alternative=serried,
  before=,
  after={\parskip0dd},
  hang=1,
  inbetween=,
  indenting=yes,
  width=1.5em,
  location=left,
  distance=0.5em,
  numbercommand=\myftnnumber,
 ]
\def\myftnnumber#1{\hbox to 1.5em{%
 \null\hfill{\tfx\high{#1}}}}}
```

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[2] This is the default setting of footnotes.

[3] And this is the proper setting of footnotes for Czech and Slovak; since TᴇXlive 2012.

Item labels for enumeration environments

In Czech and Slovak typesetting, item labels using arabic numerals, roman numerals or capital letters are ended by a dot whereas small letters are followed by a right parenthesis character.

Therefore, the default setting in ConTEXt falls short of our expectations because for all cases of enumerate environments a dot has been set. The solution is

```
\setupitemize
 [each]
 [left=,right=.,
  stopper=,
  itemalign=flushright,
  distance=0.5em]

\setupitemize[XXX][right=)]
```

where XXX is the level of the itemize environment. If small letters are used at different levels, the second definition with the itemize environment should be enclosed in a group.

Conclusion

Typesetting rules for Czech and Slovak language, which have been developed for a long time, differ from rules for other languages. Moreover, some of these rules are codified by Czech or Slovak (or, formerly, Czechoslovak) norms. This paper shows some of these differences and brings instructions how to implement them.

For ConTEXt typesetters who need to use the correct design of the mentioned topics, the module CZSK (file `t-czsk.mkiv`) has been developed and is available on author's personal website www.thala.cz/typesetting/ CONTEXT /modules/.

References

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