

## CONSTRUCTIONS WITH THE PREPOSITION *DĖL* IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

*Summary*

*Lietuvių kalbos žodynas* (*Dictionary of the Lithuanian Language*) and *Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos žodynas* (*Modern Lithuanian Dictionary*) indicate that in the Lithuanian language the preposition *dėl* is used to signify a cause, purpose, concession; to highlight the thought of a sentence. These dictionaries do not mention the meanings of an attribute and general content area characteristic to the administrative language.

Statistical data show that *dėl* is the most frequent preposition in the administrative language. The research of the use of constructions with this preposition in 50 European Union documents showed that about three quarters of occurrences in document titles signify an attribute or general content area. The spread of constructions with the preposition *dėl* in the administrative language has been determined by linguistic conditions: 1) analogy with verbal noun phrases with the preposition *dėl*; 2) a wider meaning of the preposition *dėl* enables it to successfully compete with prepositions having a more specific meaning (*apie, i*), genitival and instrumental phrases, infinitival constructions. Non-linguistic (that of legal regulation) condition is also important – the legislation regulating the preparation of documents suggests a construction with the preposition *dėl* as a proper expression to be used in titles of many legal acts (rulings, decisions, orders, decrees, etc.).

Constructions with the preposition *dėl* signifying an attribute or general content area in document titles, in cases when they eliminate the usual expression variants from usage, are considered as secondary variants of the norm.

**KEYWORDS:** prepositions, administrative language, syntax, word meanings, document titles.

RASUOLĖ VLADARSKIENĖ  
Lietuvių kalbos institutas  
Petro Vileišio g. 5, LT-10308 Vilnius  
*rasuole@lki.lt*