# CONTENTS

Introduction: Linguistic Aspects of Proverbs in System and Text ----7

## A. Aspects of Proverbs: Lexical, Semantic and Pragmatic ---- 9

- 1. Lexical Foundations of Proverbs: Based on Data from English, German, French and Czech ---- 11
- 2. Lexicon and Proverbs: Basics and Foundations (Lexical Origins of Proverbs) ---- 25
- 3. Frequent Proverbs and Their Meaning: A Proposal of a Linguistic Description (The Core and Paremiological Minima Described) ---- 35
- Proverbs: Linguistic and Lexicographic Approaches versus Ethnographic, Logical, Onomasiological and Other ---- 66

### B. Proverb Use and Pragmatics ---- 77

- 5. What One Can Do with Proverbs in Text ---- 79
- Text Introducers of Proverbs and Other Idioms ---- 94
- 7. Usage of Proverbs in Today's Czech language: What Czech National Corpus Seems to Suggest ----- 111
- 8. Pragmatics of Proverbs: Basic Types of Evaluation ---- 127

### C. Lexical and Proverb Classes in Lexicon ---- 135

- 9. Propositional Idioms ---- 137
- 10. Basic English Proverbs: Their Variability and Corpus-Based-Aspects ---- 146
- 11. Paremiological Minimum of English ---- 162
- 12. Paremiological Minimum of Czech: The Corpus Evidence ---- 170

### D. Semantic and Functional Types and Classes of Proverbs ---- 185

- 13. Wisdom in Proverbs? (Do Proverbs Suggest Wisdom?) ---- 187
- 14. Proverbs on Friends and Friendship ---- 192
- 15. Reason and Thought: Pillars of Intelligent Behaviour Found in Proverbs ---- 205
- 16. Laugh Proverbs: Do These Really Capture Laughing? ---- 217
- 17. Numbers in Proverbs ---- 225
- 18. Dog and Cat Proverbs: Comparison of English, Czech, Finnish and Other Languages ----- 233

Ten Commandments for Paremiologist or A Paremiological Decalogue ---- 242