

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Ivana Blahoutová

Title: *Negation in English: The means and semantics with special focus on the use of "a", "any" and zero article*

Length: 62 pages

Text Length: 29 pages

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See comments overleaf.
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

The author has produced an excellent piece of work, logically constructed and argued, and maintaining a consistently high level of academic writing throughout. The theoretical section sets up the background to and rationale for the author's own research, which, as she states, confirms what is described in the literature. The weakest part is the Conclusion which, strictly speaking, should not be introducing terminology hitherto unmentioned (*Neg-First and End-Weight principles*), fresh citations from the literature (Tottie (1991)) or additional explanations of terms which have appeared earlier in the main text (null article). In the context of the whole, however, these are relatively minor quibbles which do not detract substantially from the overall quality of the thesis.

Two additional points, both of which relate to items on p. 12:

1. The specific term zero article may have been first used by Klima but the concept itself is much older and dates back at least to the 1930s and Christophersen, who referred to *zero form*.
2. The idea of zero article being used in a first mention is surely an oversimplification: one assumes it is being applied to plural nouns since countable nouns in the singular are more likely to be preceded by *a(n)*.

Recommended grade: **výborně**

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 30th August 2019

Signature:

