

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology, Linguistics)
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: ZUZANA KLÍMOVÁ

Title: THE GERUND IN AN ENGLISH SENTENCE – THEORETICAL DESCRIPTION OF ITS SYNTACTIC ROLE IN A SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Length: 78

Text Length: 56

| <i>Assessment Criteria</i> | <i>Scale</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
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| 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 | see final comments down the page |
| 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 | see final comments down the page |
| 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 | see final comments down the page |
| 4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information. | Outstanding ◀ Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | see final comments down the page |
| 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 final comments down the page |
| 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 | see final comments down the page |
| 7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate | Outstanding Very good ◀ Acceptable | see final comments down the page |

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| for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing. | 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 | see final comments down the page |

Final Comments & Questions

The above assessed work deals with a purely grammatical topic showing the never ending discussion about the *-ing* form being gerund, participle or noun on one side or, an undifferentiated language form on the other side.

In the introduction the author explains the reasons for her interest in the issue and states the research questions clearly.

The work is traditionally divided into two parts – theoretical and practical. In the theoretical part the author provides a very solid and profound base for the research itself. She presents individual outstanding and well-known grammarians' opinions, which embrace a whole range from “clear-cut, distinctive” forms to one undifferentiated “*-ing* form”, compares their attitudes and, at the end of this extent chapter she puts forward a summary of their stand points.

The following chapter – the Practical Part presents the results of her research – the analysis of more than 300 excerpts – structures containing gerundial constructions in various syntactic functions. The results are then summarized in tables and graphs that provide information about the ways of using gerund in individual works of fiction stated at the beginning of the subchapter The Method of the Analysis. The author also pays attention to the internal structure of non-finite clauses containing the verb in the form of gerund, mainly to the status of the subject – the occurrence of the overt vs covert subject, passive or active gerund.

In the chapter Conclusions and Further Research the author proves how precisely she has worked and how deep an insight into the issue she has made. The conclusions are worth paying attention to and, in my opinion they strongly support the viewpoint of gerund being an original, full-fledged verb form occupying an irreplaceable position in the system of the language expression.

The language of the undergraduate thesis is very good, at some places, nevertheless, the author prefers a rather colloquial style of expression (mainly the omission of the conjunction *that*), which, in my opinion is rather inappropriate. A few mistypes appear throughout the work. Regardless of these shortcomings, the work can be considered an excellent piece of academic writing.

The suggested evaluation: “výborně” (outstanding).

The issue to mention during the offence:

- the difference between the terms used in the thesis: “deverbal noun” vs “verbal noun”.
- the issue of the tense of gerund – absolute or relative? (present vs perfective gerund)

Supervisor/ Reviewer : PhDr. Jarmila Petřliková, Ph.D. (Supervisor)

Date: 9 July 2020

Signature: