

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

Thesis Author: **Anna Pelouchová**

Title: *Translation of idioms in Czech subtitles to British and American films*

Length: 85 pages

Text Length: 44 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	
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

This is a neatly constructed, well written thesis on a topic which, in the wider sense, is of considerable contemporary relevance, given the plethora of translated texts of all types being made available to the general public. The narrower focus of comparing a professionally translated text with an amateur enthusiast's efforts is also not without merit – if only to confirm what one would naturally expect, namely that the professional's version is generally more accurate than the amateur's and offers a smoother read. The author states that the source of the amateur translations is www.titulky.cz but supplies no other details which might have been of interest, such as whether the translators are completely anonymous or instead use some moniker or initials which would allow partial identification. And is there any space for feedback on the quality of the translations?

With specific regard to idioms, a commonly used definition is that these are phrases whose meaning is not immediately obvious from the words themselves; hence a literal translation would be at best unidiomatic and at worst complete nonsense. However, in the case of, say, *lingua franca* and *faux pas* (p. 14) the only potential difficulty for the English speaker is that these are not native English expressions; however, they are probably used often enough for the average reader/listener to grasp their meaning without major difficulty. Furthermore, as both these terms are also used in Czech, they can simply be transferred and thus no English-to-Czech translation problem arises here. True, *shut your mouth* (ibid.) would need translating but the meaning is completely transparent and could be rendered in several other languages quite straightforwardly. Substituting 'cakehole' for 'mouth' might cause the translator to hesitate a moment but, even then, the question is probably more one of register than comprehension, since the surrounding context would presumably assist with the intended meaning.

On a purely peripheral note, the unusual expression *not that wildly used* (p. 22) raised a smile in this reader although, on reflection, it does have a certain intuitive appeal and would perhaps deserve a wider currency. Otherwise the author maintains a high standard of language throughout and is to be congratulated on having produced an excellent piece of work.

Recommended grade: **výborně**

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 28th August 2020

Signature: