

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: PhDr. Klára Lancová, Ph.D.

Title:

THE COMPETITION OF ROOT AND EPISTEMIC MODALITY OF THE MODAL AUXILIARY MAY WITH RESPECT TO CZECH

VÝSKYT ZÁMĚROVÉ A DISPOZIČNÍ MODALITY ANGLICKÉHO MODÁLNÍHO SLOVESA MAY S OHLEDEM NA ČEŠTINU

Length: 78

Text Length: 32

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
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

The greatest merit of the proposed thesis, in my view, lies in a clear, systematic approach to the subject matter starting with exemplary work with theoretical resources, which comes to fruition in the practical part and the analytical comments, and concluding with a specific, unpretentious summary of thoroughly processed data.

As to the potential weaknesses, I refer to some of them in the discussion questions below. Moreover, the discussion of the results could be more robust in the interpretative domain, perhaps providing broader context for the identified complementary distribution of the analysed phenomena.

The formulatory level oscillates between exemplary and substandard in certain sections – there is a clear discrepancy between the theoretical and practical part, which sometimes displays a lack of careful editing, wrong use of the category of definiteness and occasional Czech word order use. Overall, however, the proficiency level of the text fulfils the requirements.

I propose the following points for discussion at the thesis defense:

- 1/ The genre was chosen for analysis based on the fact that the selected modals occur primarily in formal texts. Does the author believe it is representative of a natural/authentic written register use since it is a fantasy novel and thus the level of artifice is considerably high?
- 2/ Could the quality of the translation have influenced both the qualitative and quantitative results since there is a non-standard, or even erroneous translation appearing already in textual example no. 1 (“may have felt the cold that came with them...” – “chlád, kteřý přišel zároveň s nimi”)? And if so, how?
- 3/ In Conclusion (p. 29), the author mentions that 8% of the sentences use modals to express permission and the remaining 72% express uncertainty. Is this just a typo or is there information missing on the remaining 20%?

I recommend this thesis for defense and depending on its outcome and the decision of the committee I propose the assessment of 1 or 2, *výborně* or *velmi dobře*.

Reviewer: Klára Lancová

Date: June 2 2023

Signature: