

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

Thesis Author: **Martina Běnová**

Title: **THE FUNCTION AND SEMANTICS OF THE “POSSESSIVE CASE” OF ENGLISH NOUNS AND ITS CZECH EQUIVALENTS**

Length: 80

Text Length: 70

<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	See “Final comments and questions”.
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 and questions”
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 and questions”
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 and questions”
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 and questions”
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	See “Final comments and questions”

appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	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	See "Final comments and questions"
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 and questions"

Final Comments & Questions

The above assessed undergraduate thesis deals with a wonderful grammatical topic, whose knowledge and appropriate use only increases a non-native speaker' level of their performance.

In the "Introduction chapter" the author provides sufficient reasons for choosing the above mentioned linguistic topic, relevant research questions and logical lay-out of her thesis.

In the following "Theoretical Background" chapter the grammatical phenomenon is presented. The author makes full use of the relevant linguistic literature, mainly academic grammar books *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, *Student's Grammar of the English Language* by S. Greenbaum and R. Quirk and *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* by L. Dušková. The author also uses other reference literature dealing (at least partially) with the topic. She shows her ability to deal with reference literature, to focus on relevant information and to use it properly in her own piece of work.

The "Analysis chapter" presents the actual analysis of the excerpts taken from English written fiction. The amount of excerpts is definitely sufficient. The analysis itself seems at places rather superficial (e.g. ex. 154 page 38: *Clemens's usage of racially offensive epithets* is interpreted as genitive of origin though it is obviously subjective genitive, ex.155 page 38: *Tom's aunt Polly – possessive genitive* can hardly be considered correct – is Tom the owner of his aunt?...). So it seems that in particular the problem of the semantics of the possessive case can't have been thought of thoroughly by the author of the thesis.

The language of the thesis can be regarded as acceptable, though there to occur some hardly acceptable mistakes mainly in the word order of the sentences (the grammatical principle of WO seems to cause trouble to the author, e.g. in Abstract (p. iii) *In all three sources was the major semantic function of possessive case a determiner. In the introduction and in the novel is the major meaning possessive genitive. In the Raftmen's passage is the major meaning genitive of origin* the word order used here is V – S even though there are no reasons for such marked arrangement. The sentence *The next what is mentioned are functions and meanings of the possessive case.....* undoubtedly reveals the fact that the author is a Czech English speaker. The traces of "Czenglish" are crystal-clear. All the above mentioned shortcomings unfortunately decrease the level of the thesis to a mere average.

The suggested mark: "dobře"

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

Date: August 18 2012

Signature:

