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

Thesis Author: Jan Vála

Title: The competition of individual means of expressing generic reference with English nouns

Length: 47pp

Text Length: 23pp

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	The research aim of the thesis is not clear to me. More on this below.
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	The theoretical part draws on a wide range of research and brings it together into a persuasive text.
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**	More on this below.
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	Outstanding	

student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	**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

In chapter 2, "Theoretical Background", the student draws on the work of a wide range of linguists to examine the conditions of use of the article in the English language. This is done more than competently. However, I was extremely surprised when I read chapter 3, "Analysis" to find only half a page referring me to the appendices. It seems the student has merely slotted instances of the article (taken from Stephen King) into the categories established in chapter 2. There is no argument; there is no analysis. If I were recommending the thesis to be defended (which I am not, see below), I would suggest the student discuss chapter 3 and explain the absence of analysis or argument.

This reservation aside, the thesis fails to meet the minimum requirements for Bachelor Works, according to "Vyhláška děkanky č. VD11/2012 - Vypracování kvalifikační práce" §4, where it is stated: "Vlastní text práce zpravidla nepřesahuje 90 000 znaků (50 normostran), minimální přípustný rozsah je 54 000 znaků (30 normostran)."

By my calculation, Mr Vála's work contains only 38,654 characters (including spaces), which is significantly below the requirements. The tables and long lists of examples at the end of the work cannot be considered the student's "original text" [vlastní text], as the dean's decree further states (§8): "Do vlastního textu se nezapočítávají úvodní strany (titulní list, prohlášení, případné poděkování, zadání či seznam zkratek), strany se seznamem použitých pramenů, poznámkovým aparátem, ilustrujícími přílohami apod."

Thus I recommend failing the thesis (**nevyhověl**).

Supervisor/Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 31 July 2013

Signature: