

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Patrik Vrzal

Title: THE MOST FREQUENT LANGUAGE MEANS USED WITH THE
AIM TO REACH HUMOROUS EFFECT

Length: 42pp

Text Length: 39pp

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 an 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	I appreciated the wide range of sources that the student drew upon, but I think it was a bad idea to draw upon Wikipedia (on two occasions). Also, the dictionary definitions were superfluous. The word "incongruous" does not have to be explained.
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	In general, the student dealt with the material well and applied the various categories to jokes. At the outset rightly stresses the idea of incongruity as a necessary element, but perhaps loses sight of this in the further course of the thesis. Two examples: "Dyslexic man walks into a bra," and the joke about the man going into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm. The student rightly identifies some elements of the jokes, but in my opinion overlooks the incongruity of the images of, first, a man walking into a bra, and, second, of a man with a roll of tarmac under his arm walking into a bar. If the second man walked in with a <i>picture</i> of a road, and put in the bar, the joke would not be as funny, as it depends on the incongruous image of the original. The incongruity of the man is given by the dimensional difference – the bra must either be very big, or the man very small, but either way it is a

		surreal and incongruous image. If he had walked into a byre, a burr, or a bore, it would not be as funny. The verbal pun generates an incongruous image.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	As I went through the analyses of the fifty jokes, I wondered what was to be gained by approaching jokes in this way. The student briefly address the pedagogical implications of his research in the final paragraphs, but this is not very helpful. What then is to be gained by categorizing jokes in this way?
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	In general this is good, but there are errors. On p. 5, for instance, the reference to the YouTube video is incorrectly formatted.

Final Comments & Questions

This is an interesting and ambitious thesis, and I look forward to the student's response to the issues raised above. I propose the grade of **2 (velmi dobře)**.

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

Date: 12 May 2014

Signature:

