

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

Thesis Author: Kristýna Stupková

Title: AFRICAN AMERICAN VERNACULAR ENGLISH

Length: 45

Text Length: 35

<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
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
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
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
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding + Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	see final comments

	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	see final comments
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
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

Final Comments & Questions

This undergraduate thesis deals with an interesting and quite challenging topic – the analysis of the African American Vernacular English (AAVE), which – as we can see – has won its position in the linguistic description of individual varieties of English.

The work starts with a sufficient explanation of reasons why the author has chosen this topic, and provides a good lay-out of the work.

In the following chapter the author works with the theoretical basis necessary for the actual analysis of individual excerpts. The way in which the author works with the theoretical material proves that she is perfectly capable of working with technical texts and finding information relevant for the analysis.

The analytical part provides examples of individual phenomena of the AAVE from the area of grammar, phonology as well as lexis, and deals with them in a professional way. The chapter “Conclusions” then summarizes the phenomena found in the excerpts and relates them to the description in the theoretical part of the work. This is done quite well, though, in my opinion the author should have tried at being more general in drawing conclusions.

In spite of occasional grammatical mistakes (e.g. expressing negation – p 35) the language is at a very good level, and the work can be considered a very fine piece of academic writing. (the suggested evaluation: “výborně”)

Reviewer: PhDr. Jarmila Petrlíková, Ph.D.

Date: July 7th 2015

Signature:

