

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

Thesis Author: **Adriana Hlinková**  
 Title: *Human body lexical items – A cross-cultural comparison*  
 Length: 66 pages  
 Text Length: 35 pages

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	

## Final Comments & Questions

This final work makes a curious impression. The author embarked upon an ambitious project involving a cross-linguistic comparison of body idioms in English, Czech, German and Russian. Questionnaires were distributed to young native speakers of the languages in question in order to ascertain respondents' understanding of the given expressions and their perceived frequency of usage. Unfortunately, problems with data collection resulted in German and Russian being omitted from the practical part, which is a pity as it gives the work something of a lop-sided appearance.

Much of the Introduction seems irrelevant to the topic and *Nevertheless, the topic of the undergraduate thesis ...* at the bottom of p. 6 more or less implies that much of the foregoing could have been omitted, though it is debatable whether what follows on p. 7 represents any sort of improvement.

Once the author finally does decide to deal with her chosen topic, there is nothing wrong with the selection of idioms in terms of the semantic field; however, it is not obvious why some are presented in the infinitive form, while others are linked to a personal pronoun – cf. *To be bone idle* (p. 35) and *He is lying through his teeth* (p. 36). It is also unclear why the author is happy to accept alternative translations of idioms from her respondents but does not see fit to offer the same in her own theoretical background and tables. A case in point is *ohne mit der Wimper zu zucken* for *not turn a hair* – which is quite correct so far as it goes; however, a back translation from German to English might yield *not bat an eyelid*, which is a much closer lexical match. In fact, several of the translations in the appendices are quite eccentric; moreover, conflating word-for-word and literal translation only serves further to confuse the issue.

From a formal point of view, there are several problems with referencing – in particular, the early part of the theoretical background is most inconsistent with some page references missing from direct quotations but included in cases of paraphrase; sometimes even the whole title of a work is superfluously added alongside the author's name. One may assume there is no deliberate attempt here to plagiarise; however, *No lexeme exists in splendid isolation* (p. 9) is evidently David Crystal's original wording, not Ms Hlinková's, and therefore should appear in quotation marks.

To sum up: the author deserves credit for her diligence in compiling an appropriate list of idioms from four languages and presenting them neatly in tabulated form. The basic underlying concept of the work is an interesting one and somewhere in the midst of all this material there may be the makings of a very good thesis. In its current form, however, given the various shortcomings, the work is at best a borderline pass. The final verdict will rest on the oral defence.

Recommended provisional grade: **dobře**

Supervisor: Andrew Tollet

Date: 1st September 2017

Signature:

