

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

Thesis Author: Veronika Wildová
 Title: *The status of "it" in structure of an English clause and its Czech equivalents*
 Length: 81 pages
 Text Length: 36 pages

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	
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 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	
The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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	
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	
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	
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	– The main text should begin on p. 1. – It is not always clear whether the examples given in the theoretical section are the author's own or taken from the literature.

Final Comments & Questions

The bachelor thesis is well researched and the outcome a tribute to the author's ability to work with her selected material and categorise logically the instances of the grammatical phenomena upon which she was focusing. The author points out that the way of writing and the genre itself may have an influence on the statistics. This is undoubtedly true and raises the question of how such research might be broadened to offer a wider perspective of the issues involved in a way which could be incorporated into practical language teaching.

Some specific points arising in the main text:

- (a) On p. 16 I was genuinely interested to see whether Dušková (1994) really had spelt *Cuba* with an initial 'K' and used the collocation 'in night' to boot; however, I could not find the cited sentence on pp. 427-428 of her work.
- (b) On the technical side, there is an incorrect reference on p. 17 to section 2.1.3.2, which in fact does not exist. It should be 2.1.1.2 but the mention on p. 17 seems superfluous anyway, since the concept of 'deictic' has already been explained.
- (c) On p. 21 the author introduces the term *multiple predicate* without actually explaining what it is. The concept resurfaces on p. 24 but the explanation is hazy: presumably 'multiple predicate' is not the original Czech term but rather the author's English rendering of it. As a mere two examples occur in the data, it is a pity only one of them is provided in the main text. Either way, more details of this in the theoretical background would have been welcome, if only to offer an idea of how prevalent this phenomenon is or whether – as this particular analysis would imply – it is purely peripheral and thus undeserving of more detailed attention.
- (d) In ex. 36 on p. 28, one's own intuitions suggest that 'it' refers to the plane rather than its silhouette: planes make sounds, shadows do not.

On the whole the author maintains a very good level of academic writing throughout. There are some minor problems such as *An interesting comparison offers the analysis* (p. 2); *refere* (p. 3); *Things, animals and collectives have its gender in Czech* (p. 6); then the repetition of an authorial *I have been* becomes rather irksome, never more so than in section 3.3.2, where it appears five times in one paragraph, including once with a grammatical error. Yet, despite the above criticisms, none of the linguistic inaccuracies are so serious as to distort the meaning or affect comprehension.

I would recommend a provisional mark of **velmi dobře** with the possibility of upgrading depending on the oral defence.

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 30th August 2019

Signature:

