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

Thesis Author: **Tereza Klencová**
Title: *Analysis of the Language of Fairy Tales from the Point of View of Transferred Language*
Length: 137 pages
Text Length: 50 pages

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	
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	
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 comments overleaf.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient **Very deficient**	See comments overleaf.
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	See comments overleaf.
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 comments overleaf.
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**	The format of direct quotations is incorrect throughout the work. The sources of the fairy tales are not listed in the references.

Final Comments & Questions

The most remarkable feature of this work is how few of the 50 standard pages of main text are actually the author's own words: excerpts used for analysis occupy 15 standard pages in the Research chapter, prior to which the equivalent of a further ten pages in the Theoretical Background have been filled with incorrectly formatted direct quotations taken from the literature. The worst examples of a non-attempt to use one's own words can be found on pp. 20-21. Technically, quotations from the background reading are quite legitimately included in the word count; however, overusing them to such an extent makes a very poor impression. The complete list of excerpts, on the other hand, belongs in an appendix, though the author could have cited some of them as examples in her main text.

The Theoretical Background covers a fair amount of territory but section 2.2.6 in particular assumes a form more akin to a glossary, albeit one in which items appear in a completely random order so that the author's list of terms associated with figurative language starts with *simile* and ends with *alliteration*. The approach here involves borrowing a definition from one of the background reading sources – admittedly not always the same source – and adding some example(s), also taken from the professional literature. It is not clear why some terms should merit more illustrative sentences than others: for instance, there are three examples of hyperbole, two of understatement, but only one of metonymy.

As regards the research itself, the concept of categorising fairy tales according to which part of the United Kingdom they are associated with might be superficially attractive but the methodological approach here seems fundamentally flawed. In order to produce any meaningful results, one would first need to establish a corpus of fairy-tale texts by a number of different authors and then test whether they consistently contain more or fewer examples of specific lexical features depending on the country of origin. Instead, Ms Klencová has taken excerpts from just four writers, each nominally representing one of the constituent parts of the UK. At this juncture it is worth noting that P.H. Emerson, author of the "Welsh" stories. was born in Cuba and moved to England in his teens, while Charles John Tibbitts was an English journalist, who in his day produced several volumes of *Folk-Lore and Legends* books: in addition to Scotland, he also covered England, Russia and Poland, Scandinavia and the Orient. This is not to deny the ability of these writers to capture local colour but one has to wonder whether the statistical count of figurative language items in their stories was really influenced at all by the cultural background setting. In fact, Ms Klencová does describe (p. 27) the problems she encountered in selecting suitable texts to include in her analysis but doesn't consider the possibility that, given the range she initially chose to deal with, the data might reflect more the style of individual writers than any regional or national predilections. A further issue concerning the data collection is an imbalance in quantity: overall, the Scottish and English texts are admirably similar in length, at 13646 and 13966 words respectively; however, the Irish ones contain a total of 19151 words, while the poor Welsh lag a long way behind with a mere 6822. Such discrepancies render any frequency comparisons dubious and it is most unfortunate that the author herself chose voluntarily to discard huge swathes of material *because some of the regions fulfil more the original presupposition of the importance of figurative language in fairy tale genre than others* (p. 27). This represents a massive missed opportunity: if only Ms Klencová had used four sets of data of approximately similar size and one of them (let's say the Welsh) subsequently revealed a significantly lower level of figurative language than the other three, that might have proved a genuine find – again, with the afore-mentioned caveat concerning the quirks of individual authors' styles.

All things considered, the opinion of this reviewer is that the work in its current form is unsatisfactory and needs rewriting in a way that demonstrates the author's ability better to paraphrase and synthesise information, as well as provide a sounder methodological basis for her research. The potential is definitely there but the form of presentation needs to be different.

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 8th June 2020

Signature: