

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

Thesis Author: **Jan Vála**

Title: THE COMPETITION OF INDIVIDUAL MEANS OF EXPRESSING GENERIC REFERENCE WITH ENGLISH NOUNS

Length: 42

Text Length: 33

<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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the 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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the final comments; At page 5 the example 2) <i>I saw the two cats standing in front of me;</i> seems unconvincing – a different form of the structure should have been chosen to make the clause sound more natural – “Can you see the two cats standing.....?” It is difficult to agree with the opinion that <i>a/an</i> should be considered as two separate items; (we can distinguish 3 articles, including the “zero article”)! in 3.1.1 ex 8) <i>End of story</i> . The generic reference is questioned; in exx 4, and 15 nouns <i>morning and night</i> seem to have been used in their Uncountable meaning. In summary at page 13, particular example 25 is mentioned to mark the use of the definite article, nevertheless, in the actual analysis, the indefinite article is used; the generic ref. in exs 90, 94 at page 18 seem to be disputable
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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	in 3.1.1 ex 8) <i>End of story</i> . The generic reference is questioned; in exx 4, and 15 nouns <i>morning and night</i> seem to have been used in their Uncountable meaning. In summary at page 13, particular example 25 is mentioned to mark the use of the definite article, nevertheless, in the actual analysis, the indefinite article is used; the generic ref. in exs 90, 94 at page 18 seem to be disputable
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the final comments
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main	Outstanding Very good	See final comments

findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	<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	See the 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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the 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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the final comments

#### Final Comments & Questions

This undergraduate thesis deals with the topic which is generally viewed as very difficult, especially by Czech learners of English because it deals with one area of usage of the articles – the expression of the generic reference. That is why I consider this topic very challenging and appreciate the author's willingness to work on it.

The work is traditionally divided into three, resp. four main parts – introduction, theoretical background, actual analysis and conclusions. The part focusing on the theory of the category of reference and definiteness contains certain definitions which, in my opinion, should have been illustrated by examples (page 3, the terms “inclusiveness” and extensivity”) so that they can be more easily followed. Apart from this, some assertions can hardly be accepted (see point 2 above).

In the actual analysis, some examples (see above) are included whose generic reference seems at least disputable (wider context would be necessary) or even out of question. What should be emphasized as quite a good piece of work is the summaries, which follow each set of excerpts of individual means of generic reference. They prove that the author thought about the subject matter in spite of some disputable excerpts.

The chapter Conclusions then provides the results of the analyses of individual sets of nouns and tries to find certain links between the particular means of the generic reference and the semantic meanings of nouns.

The language of the work is at a good level. Despite certain shortcomings (namely in misinterpreting the reference of certain noun phrases) the work as a whole meets the requirements put on a piece of academic writing. Owing to the shortcomings mentioned above, the suggested evaluation is: “dobře”.

Supervisor/Reviewer: PhDr. J. Petrlíková, Ph.D.

Date: May 6 2013

Signature:

