



## Master's Thesis Evaluation Form

Student's name: Shivam Sen

Thesis title: Digital Discourse Analysis of Posthumanism in Open Access Academia

Name of the supervisor: Martin Hájek

Name of the opponent: Jakub Sedláček

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis? Please give your reasons for the suggested grade in detail below.

1. *Does the author show understanding of one or more theories, and use theory to generate a hypothesis or to make the problem area more understandable?*

Comments: Yes. The author draws on the ideas of Michel Foucault and Teun van Dijk about discourse, its internal dispersion and the configuration of power. He uses these theories to formulate three research questions.

2. *Is the research question articulated clearly and properly? Is the research question sufficiently answered in the conclusion?*

Comments: The research questions are well formulated. However, the research satisfactorily answers only RQ1 and RQ2. I cannot consider the distribution of authorship in the corpus as an indicator of the configuration of power in the "posthuman" discursive sphere. While the author acknowledges the limitations of analysing the positive - productive - side of discourse, I argue that if discourse is defined by the power of exclusion, this should also be analysed. Perhaps through the temporal tracking of discursive formation.

3. *Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?*

Comments: Yes. I like the concise but eloquent summary of the Foucauldian and van Dijk's conception of discourse.

4. *What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sample method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?*

Comments: Yes. The corpus seems to be well made and the analysis was appropriate to the data studied.

5. *Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?*



Comments: As I wrote above, RQ1 and RQ2 are well covered by the results. RQ3 is not conclusively answered.

6. *Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?*

Comments: Yes.

7. *Is the thesis containing original/innovative research (in terms of topic, approach, and/or findings)?*

Comments: Yes. The methodological approach is original and can be applied to other discursive areas.

8. *What is the quality of style and other formal requirements?*

Comments: The thesis is written in clear language, even in highly technical passages.

9. *Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.*

Comments: I would appreciate a more in-depth discussion of the findings, especially their substantive significance. What have we learned about the discourse of posthumanism in the academic literature? Are there similarities with other discourses?

10. *What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?*

Comments: How could power in discourse be analysed in more detail?

11. *Declaration that the supervisor has read the result of the originality check in the system: [ ] Theses [x] Turnitin [ ] Original (Urkund)*

Supervisor's comment on the originality check result:

Okay.

**Overall assessment of the thesis:**



The thesis meets all the requirements for a diploma thesis in Society, Communication and Media master's programme. My criticism concerns only minor points. Therefore, my recommendation is for the defence of the thesis.

Proposed grade: B

Date: June 6, 2023

Signature: