



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of English and ELT Methodology

A Review of a Final Thesis

submitted to the Department of English and ELT Methodology,
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Name and titles of the reviewer: Mgr. Veronika Raušová

Reviewed as: a supervisor an opponent

Author of the thesis: Josefina Arellanesová

Title of the thesis: "Better in English": Exploring the Relationship Between Anglophone Media, the Internet and Language Preferences and Uses in Czech-English Speakers

Year of submission: 2023

Submitted as: a bachelor's thesis a master's thesis

Level of expertise:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Factual errors:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis frequent less serious serious

Chosen methodology:

original and appropriate appropriate barely adequate inadequate

Results:

original original and derivative non-trivial compilation cited from sources copied

Scope of the thesis:

too large appropriate to the topic adequate inadequate

Bibliography (number and selection of titles):

above average (scope or rigor) average below average inadequate

Typographical and formal level:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Language:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Typos:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis numerous



Brief description of the thesis (by the supervisor, ca. 100-200 words):

Review, comments and notes (ca. 100-200 words)

Strong points of the thesis:

The theoretical part of the thesis is well-written and demonstrates the author's comprehensive understanding of the researched topic and related concepts. It also establishes a solid foundation for the subsequent analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaires. The analysis produces original results that appear to reveal interesting tendencies among young native Czech speakers to strategically employ English instead of their L1 in sensitive contexts.

The language used in the thesis showcases the author's high proficiency in English, including a strong grasp of the conventions of English academic discourse.

Weak points of the thesis:

The extent of the analysis. Although the questionnaire devised by the author includes at least 10 questions exploring the participants' language preferences in various contexts, the conclusions of the thesis seem to heavily rely on the analysis of only one question – number 25, along with the support of some of the responses to question 28. This is particularly relevant to the finding that English may be perceived by some as a more appropriate language for discussing emotionally charged topics than Czech. Furthermore, no comments are provided regarding other contexts, such as participants' language preferences when swearing (questions 19, 20) or when expressing affection (questions 23, 24). Finally, the questionnaires undoubtedly yielded a substantial amount of information about the study participants. It is reasonable to expect the author to include such information, considering it was readily available (questions 1-8).

Questions to answer during the Defence and suggested points of discussion:

- Were the conclusions drawn from the analysis of responses to questions 25 and 28 also supported by participants' responses to questions 47-51?
- It is stated that the survey was ultimately completed by 90 respondents (p.17). However, while some issues encountered in the analysis of the questionnaires are discussed in Section 3.2, no information is provided regarding the final number of participants / questionnaires used in the study. In other words, it is unclear whether all respondents met the requirements (e.g., being native Czech speakers, with a high level of English proficiency, etc.) and whether all obtained questionnaires were included in the study.
- Regarding the questions 5 and 8 of the questionnaire – what were the results of participants' self-evaluation of their proficiency in English?



- Can you provide some examples of English terminology related to psychology, therapy, emotions, introspection etc., that is preferred over Czech equivalents or does not have Czech equivalents?

Other comments:

- The citation style used in the present thesis appears to generally follow the 7th edition of the APA. However, in Section 6, the references are provided in a variety of formats, e.g. "Ivana Bozděchová. (2017)." and "J.H. McDonald. (2014)." Additionally, the reference to Crystal (2006) used on pp. 13 and 14 is missing from the list.
- A considerable number of references used in the present study are unpublished online sources. Although these sources seem to provide valuable information, it would have been more appropriate to cite either the original work (e.g. cite Wardhaugh [1987] instead of Houghton's essay, where the quoted material serves as an essay prompt) or published resources instead of websites when available (e.g. choosing another source for the descriptions of boxplots and scatterplots).
- I would like to see an example of a completed questionnaire. If possible, please bring either a printed copy of one or have it available to share online during the Defence.

Proposed grade:

excellent very good good fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:

Prague, 6.6.2023