



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:** Pavlína Šaldová, PhDr., Ph.D.

**Reviewed as:**  a supervisor  an opponent

**Author of the thesis:** Angelina Martynova

**Title of the thesis:** English translation counterparts of the Russian subjunctive *бы* / Anglické překladové korespondence ruského podmiňovacího *бы*

**Year of submission:** 2024

**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):

Based on the differences in the expression of the category of mood, the thesis aims to survey English translation counterparts of the various Russian constructions containing the subjunctive marker *бы*, which may indicate real, unreal or desired actions in the present, past or future.

The theoretical part outlines syntactic constructions in Russian containing the particle (conditional sentences, combinations with modals and other in/dependent clauses, Table 1). The mood in English is characterized as well, with focus on conditional sentences and modal verbs. 150 examples drawn from Russian originals (InterCorp, fiction) are analysed. Translation equivalents are analysed separately for each of the seven constructions, with focus on the morphological devices, types of modality as well as the finer temporal distinctions in English.

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

**Strong points of the thesis:**

The thesis deals with authentic material drawn from the corpus, which the author managed to systematize consistently for both languages. I appreciate attempts at the description of meaning of the given constructions, capturing some fine distinctions in modality, inherently hard to discern. Overall, the thesis is well organized.

**Weak points of the thesis:**

The introductory part may have included more explicit expectations about the potential correspondences. In some cases description of the correspondences does not take into account explicitly the presence of other elements expressing modality, e.g. p. 27/(33) – “*The Russian particle in the main clause is translated into English by a modal verb might, by means of which the possibility is expressed.*”: зуб МОЖНО было бы спасти. Is it just the particle *бы* in the Russian version?.

Analysis of translations without a direct structural counterpart is left out (e.g. the most numerous category in 4.6, or two examples out of three in 4.3, or e.g. p. 43, A123, A138).

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

1. “*Abstract: The thesis deals with the different meanings of the Russian particle бы.*” Are we dealing with the meaning of the particle itself?
2. Does Table 1 contain all uses of *бы* in Russian (cf. also 2.2.2)? Also, at p. 16 you raise the point that the combinations such as *как бы*, *будто бы* can be treated as lexicalized instances. How did you arrive at the list of constructions to be included in the analysis? P. 15/2.2.2: Where does the list of the combinations come from?
3. P. 36-39/4.5 Can you provide more examples of “lexical translation” (no grammatical counterpart)? The same goes for 4.6 where the majority also are not translated via a conditional/modals in English. What are other translation counterparts of the nominal protasis in 4.3?
4. What is the meaning/modality of (4) p. 35 – *If I were to talk to him*. What is the meaning of *could do* in example 5, p. 36?
5. How can you translate to English *чего бы это ему ни стоило* (ex 13, p. 40)? (literal translation missing).
6. What did you learn as a teacher-to-be of Russian and English from your analysis?

**Other comments:**

Quoting: e.g. at p. 26: your translation of Dušková et al. (2012) should not be treated as direct quotation.

**Proposed grade:**

excellent  very good  good  fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer: Prague, 27 August 2024