



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura (dvouoborové studium)**

Název práce: **A Comparative Analysis of French Expressions in English**

Autorka práce: **Štěpánková Sabina**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Petr Kos, Ph.D.**

Oponentka bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Jana Kozubíková Šandová, Ph.D.**

Short Characteristics of the Thesis

This thesis addresses the topic of French expressions in Modern English and possible semantic changes these expressions have undergone. The author first presents the theoretical background for the thesis, namely linguistic approaches to meaning, types of meaning, and description of meaning. The final chapter of the theoretical part is devoted to foreign influences on English throughout its development. In her research, the author focuses on a comparative analysis of selected French expressions in Modern English which differ semantically from their French counterparts. The actual findings of her investigation are summarised in the Conclusion. An overview of all French expressions with their meanings may be found in the Appendix.

Overall Assessment

The English language has been under the influence of many foreign languages throughout its development. In light of the predominance of Latin and French influences, the English lexicon shows ubiquitous traces of these Romance languages. However, French borrowings have sometimes changed in their phonological shape, orthography, or meaning. It is the semantic differences that form the subject matter of this thesis.

The theoretical part contains a detailed account of various aspects of the concept of meaning, including approaches to its description. What I find missing in this part is a section dealing with the semantic shift, i.e. narrowing and widening of meaning, metaphor, metonymy, etc. Furthermore, basic types of motivation for semantic change ought not to have been omitted. The theoretical part is conceived too broadly and does not relate to the empirical part very well. Both parts seem unconnected, since the theory described finds no application in the research part. Moreover, the French influence on English is described too briefly; it should have been accorded more space.

In the beginning of the analytical part, the author describes the research methodology applied in her thesis as well as its aims. What follows is a detailed analysis of 62 French expressions adopted from the *List of French Expressions in English*, found on the English version of Wikipedia. The author compares definitions of these expressions in respected English and French dictionaries with the aim to find and describe semantic differences, which is both interesting and very useful, not only for learners of French.

In the final section of the analytical part as well as in the Conclusion, the author attempts to interpret the results but she focuses predominantly on a quantitative analysis. A



comprehensive qualitative analysis would have been more valuable. In the Conclusion, one may, more or less, find a description of the structure of this thesis but no synthesis of the theoretical background and the research findings, which I consider to be a weakness of this otherwise interesting and original work. Moreover, what I do not understand very well is the relevance of the search of the analysed French expressions in the BNC, as the results of this search are not further elaborated on. The defence of the thesis would offer a good opportunity to explain these issues.

Regarding the language of the thesis, it is of reasonable quality, although some mistakes occur (e.g. *the Modern English ...* (p.9, 17), *such extent...* (p. 9), *the same theory applies for ...* (p. 13).

Notwithstanding the aforementioned problems, the thesis does meet the general requirements imposed on BA theses.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **dobře**

23.8. 2017

Date/datum

Signature/podpis