POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **Radio Phone-ins: Comparison of Questioning Techniques across Two BBC Current Affairs Programmes**

Autorka práce: **Nikola Vyhlidalová**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Helena Lohrová, Ph.D.**

Stručná charakteristika práce

The thesis undertakes a comparative analysis of questioning techniques used by broadcasters in two BBC Radio 4 current affairs phone-in debates. The first of the debates – "Who would be a teacher" – discusses a social issue of general interest, while the other – "How will we pay for adult and social care?" addresses a topic often featured in political debates. Both programmes provide a sound example of a relatively new, yet distinct and increasingly popular, media genre of radio phone-ins. Through the personalised relationship between the host and the callers into the programme, radio phone-ins function as a forum for the expression and public exchange of opinions, positions, and experiences. This platform may be further enriched by the participation of additional guests on the programme. The format of the interaction together with the skill of the host – in the case of the present thesis, Winifred Robinson and Julian Worricker, respectively – then create the meaning and content of the debate. As demonstrated by the thesis, questioning techniques employed by the host go beyond their traditional role of eliciting information. The analysis thus examines the questions posed by the hosts to run the programmes, and compares their forms and impact on the ongoing interactions. In order to undertake this task, the author adopted the methodology of Conversation Analysis (CA).

Celkové zhodnocení

The thesis provides a competent illustration of the radio phone-in genre as it is enacted interactionally. In line with the CA methodology, the author examines the sequential unfolding of the conversations and specifically focuses on determining both the formative and restrictive properties of questioning techniques posed by the host to programme participants. The analysis of question prefaces and of tag questions is relevant and well considered.

The two extracts selected for the analysis are of a length appropriate for an analysis underpinning a BA thesis (11 and 13 mins respectively). One of the extracts was transcribed by the author. Transcription is a laborious task; however, it is one that is inseparable from the CA methodology. The ability to carry out this work to a good effect is worthy of recognition as it adds value and authenticity to the work presented.

Filozofická
fakulta
Faculty
of Philosophy

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

The final transcripts were kept lean in terms of prosody. However, prosodic features were not the subject of the analysis. Rather, the accuracy of the transcribed data and their integration within the text of the actual analysis presented the qualities that were of greater importance. These were both met to a fine degree.

Referencing is in accord with the MLA convention. Throughout the text the author demonstrates her awareness of a number of relevant resources and is able to engage with these in the text of her thesis.

In the aspects of language realisation, the thesis suffers from occasional typos and expressions that may be misleading to the reading of the actual findings. Some of these may include: 'the work is divided intoeight chapters', 'second chapterthat' (p. 2), incorrect use of determiners as in 'This statement does not have interrogative form'(p. 38), 'As analysis showed'(p. 41), punctuation as in 'In her question the host only asks'(p. 25); misleading phrases or statements as in 'sovereign position' (of the host) or 'In the case of this thesis, it is demonstrated how the motivation differs in social issues affairs and political affairs programme'(p. 10). Claims of this kind are ill-founded and unsubstantiated, contradicting the actual objective of the analysis. Despite these minor slips, the level of expression and the ability to formulate own arguments may be deemed very high.

Finally, both the structure and the presentation of the thesis are clear and logical, assisting the author to execute the analysis comprehensively. The Conclusion provides a fair picture of the work undertaken. While I would personally eliminate some of the text describing the generally well known historical origins and methodological principles of CA, and would focus on refining the analysis, the thesis forms an accomplished piece. Overall, work well achieved.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

02 June 2016
_____
Datum

_____
Podpis