



## POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The Tendencies in the Formation of Gender-Marked Nouns**

Autorka práce: **Lucie Rottenbornová**

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

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

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### Stručná charakteristika práce

The thesis deals with gender-marking in naming units used to express human occupations. The author first analyses those naming units in which gender-marking is lexicalized in their form (actress, fireman). She then mentions phenomena in the society, especially feminism and political correctness, which have had some impact on the use of gender-marked terms, which resulted in the tendency to avoid them. The main focus of her work is on the analysis of the means that English speakers make use of when they have the need to express gender in connection with occupations (e.g. male/man teacher vs. female/woman teacher).

### Celkové zhodnocení

The thesis has accomplished its primary goals. Firstly, the author discusses the current use of lexicalized gender-marked terms, their history of use, and the extent to which they are still acceptable.

Secondly, the thesis provides an analysis on the use of gender markers that shows which markers are predominant and on what patterns they are used. Her conclusions are credible, as she has analysed a large amount of linguistic material.

Thirdly, her tables of competitive forms in the appendix may help language learners to match an occupation with a correct gender marker.

The work may have some application for those interested in the prototype theory (though it is not explicitly mentioned) as the analysis provides empirical evidence on which gender is prototypically associated with individual occupations – whether they are perceived in speakers' minds as prototypically male or female. For instance, the higher occurrence of female markers with *paramedic* suggests that this occupation is typically associated with men, and, on the contrary, the higher occurrence of male markers with *model* suggests that it is still associated with women.

However, some negative comments have to be mentioned, too. In her analysis of word-formation processes which are employed for gender marking, the author merges together two types of compounds in a way which is not justifiable. The first group are gender-marked terms for occupations, and the second one are commonly used markers



with dual gender nouns (for the distinction, cf. the contrast between *He is a fireman.* vs. *\*He is a male doctor.*). If these two types were kept separate, we would learn that the most prevalent word-formation process in gender-marked terms for occupations is affixation (rather than compounding). On the other hand, it must be mentioned that the author clearly distinguishes the former group as "lexicalized compounds", so the mistake is easily repairable.

The thesis is sometimes deficient in clarity. It is not always clear what the purpose of a given chapter is, why certain phenomena are discussed, or what the author is trying to say. This is probably most apparent in Chapter 4.5, in which we are presented with individual case studies without knowing what purpose they serve. As their usual purpose is to further illustrate some predominant tendencies, this chapter comprises a mere collection of individual cases (in an alphabetical order) without any attempt to draw some conclusions.

The thesis is written in good English with only a few apparent mistakes.

To conclude it, despite some above mentioned drawbacks, the thesis has achieved its goals and provides some insight on the use of gender-marked terms in contemporary English.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **velmi dobře**

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Datum

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Podpis