



## POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

---

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

Název práce: **HOW LINGUISTICS CAN ASSIST IN THE COURT OF LAW**

Autorka práce: **Eliška Krejčová**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: Mgr. Jana Kozubíková Šandová, Ph.D.

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

---

### Short characteristics of the thesis

The thesis attends to a question of how linguistics can assist in the court of law. To this purpose the thesis introduces four key areas of judicial practice in which linguistics has the potential to inform the legal profession. These areas have been identified as: trial discourse, using language analysis as evidence, interviewing child witnesses, and court interpreting. Asserting that language is integral to court dealings and to the application of law, the thesis develops linkages between relevant linguistic (sub)fields, theories and language practices and that of general legal practice in the court of law. To underpin her claims and observations, the author draws on an analysis of specific legal cases selected from the European Court of Human Rights database. These include: Case of Hasan Yazici v. Turkey (on plagiarism), Case of Brennan v. the United Kingdom (on false confessions), Case of Balsytė-Lideikienė v. Lithuania (on hate speech), Case of S.N. v. Sweden (on interviewing children), and Case of Cusani v. the United Kingdom (on court interpreting). Overall, the thesis provides considerably robust evidence on the potential of linguistics and its findings in assisting the court and legal proceedings.

The thesis is structured into seven chapters, very clearly laid out and overall proportionately balanced addressing all key points set for this thesis. Excluding Works Cited, the thesis totals 46 pages; the judgment on the Case of Hasan Yazici v. Turkey by the European Court of Human Rights is presented in the Appendix.

### Overall assessment

At the level of an undergraduate dissertation, I have no comments to make. This is a superior submission, one of the best I read in the last few years. The author clearly demonstrates a sound grasp of the subject matter, systematically pursues the research question, time and again demonstrates the academic rigour with which she approached her research, the use of specialised terminology is correct and appropriate, in her writing she is lucid, supremely fluent and to the point. I would like to express my compliments on the quality of the work achieved.

### Areas for discussion:

- 1) In your work you uncover "how linguistics can assist in the court of law". Please specify the role of *forensic linguistics* in informing legal cases and discuss its current position when entering the legal process and declaring language as evidence.
- 2) In your final conclusion, you assert that "it is up to linguists to try and showcase the potential of linguistics by educating jurists on possible contributions and advantages" (p. 46).



Filozofická  
fakulta  
Faculty  
of Arts

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

Considering the work undertaken, how would you personally like drive this initiative forward?  
Is it only jurists that need to be influenced?

- 3) Your thesis is firmly positioned in the Applied Linguistics domain. Do you consider continuing to develop your research in this applied vein as part of your MA studies? If so how?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

15. srpna 2019

Datum

Podpis