



POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO 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

This thesis focuses on four selected areas of judicial practice, namely trial discourse, using language analysis as evidence, interviewing child witnesses, and court interpreting in order to demonstrate how linguistics can be beneficial to all these areas. The author presents and describes the specific linguistic subfields and theories which can be utilised in these cases. To show this, the author examined particular legal cases whose main source was the database of cases from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The results of the analysis indicate that language plays an important role in the court of law and using linguistic theories in this area is more than welcome.

Overall assessment

The present thesis is very well written. It is logically and clearly structured, persuasively argued, and it reads smoothly. It is without any doubt one of the best theses I have read so far.

I would like to appreciate the choice of this difficult, but at the same time very interesting and significant topic. The analysis is invaluable since it clearly shows that there are many linguistic areas, theories, and principles, which could be applied to improve the legal process, nevertheless, these linguistic concepts are only rarely or never used in legal practice. The examined cases from the ECHR also demonstrate a very important finding, namely that a linguistic analysis is usually not required as part of expert evidence. Nevertheless, it is clear that such an analysis would elucidate some cases or at least it could offer an alternative perspective of the case.

Among other strengths of the thesis, which I would like to emphasise, is the connection of the selected areas of legal practice with the specific cases found in the above-mentioned database. It is very convenient and illustrative for the reader of the study.

What I would like to particularly appreciate is the outstanding ability of the author to make a synthesis of her linguistic knowledge she gained throughout her studies into a meaningful argumentation when presenting linguistic theories relevant to particular cases.

Overall, the thesis clearly fulfils all requirements for a BA thesis and in some aspects even goes beyond them. Therefore, I gladly recommend it for defence and suggest it be marked as excellent.



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Podpis