



POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **Language Change in terms of Gender in the Era of Early Modern English**

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

Short characteristics of the thesis

The thesis deals with the topic of the language change from the perspective of gender and attempts to prove a hypothesis commonly dealt within the field of sociolinguistics, namely that the main initiators of language changes are female speakers. For proving the hypothesis, the author used historical language corpora and analysed personal letters written in the period of Early Modern English with the focus on selected grammatical phenomena. The results of her research suggest that it cannot be categorically said whether the initiators of language change are always female speakers.

Overall assessment

There is no doubt that the present thesis is a valuable contribution to this up-to-date and interesting topic. In general, discussions on the differences between men and women regarding the use of language have been held among linguists from different subfields of linguistics for many decades. Nevertheless, very often with unclear and not convincing results.

The author of this thesis addressed the topic of different uses of language from the perspective of gender and decided to examine the question of who is the initiator of language change, whether male or female speakers. For this reason, the author worked with the *Corpus of Early Modern Correspondence Sampler* (CEECS) released at the University of Helsinki. Even though it belongs to smaller language corpora, it is a relevant source for conducting this type of research. In addition, it was very appropriate to choose the period of Early Modern English for this thesis since many language changes occurred exactly during this period.

The author analysed personal letters written by both males and females in order to determine who the initiator of the language change is. She focused on three grammatical phenomena, namely the replacement of the subject *ye* by *you*, the use of *my* and *thy*, and the third person singular suffix *-(e)s* versus *-(e)th*. Here we come to one of the weaker and questionable points of the whole thesis since the choice of these particular grammatical features does not guarantee objective results of the research. Are they truly reliable indicators of who the initiators of the language change in English are? Moreover, the author does not explain anywhere in the thesis, why she focused exactly on these features.

As for the structure of the thesis, it is quite clear but with prevailing descriptions of the theoretical background at the expense of a more detailed analysis of research results. I would appreciate a more in-depth analysis and detailed comments of selected examples from the corpus. As it is, the analytic part is partly confusing, not very organised, and quite short compared to the theoretical part.



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The weakest point of the thesis is its language quality. Throughout the study there occur frequent, often very basic, grammatical mistakes concerning the use of articles, prepositions, and tenses.

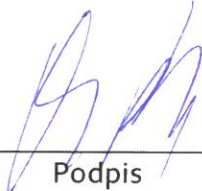
Despite my reservations, I would like to appreciate the author's effort she devoted to working on this difficult topic. I do recommend the thesis for defence.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **dobře**

13.8.2019

Datum



Podpis