

POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **HOW CHILDREN TELL STORIES – THE PROCESS OF STORYTELLING**

Autorka práce: **Marie Šimková**

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

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

Short characteristics of the thesis:

This bachelor thesis explores narrative in child-adult interactions, focusing on the structure and development of storytelling when a child is telling stories spontaneously. Over the period of eight months, the author gathered a collection of 44 audio recordings capturing conversations between Natálka, a four-year-old Czech girl, and her close relatives, also native speakers of Czech. 20 of these recordings were identified to contain core elements of storytelling and were selected for transcription and further analysis. This selection comprises 2 hours 30 minutes 22 seconds of child-adult storytelling interactions. The data were transcribed both in the language of their original delivery (i.e., Czech) as well as inter-linearly in English, in total yielding over 19,500 word tokens. By applying the methodology and principles of Conversation Analysis, the author presents an intriguing case study of how a young child employs and experiments with language through the act of telling stories, how in interaction they adjust and modify their storytelling, develop the plot, and unleash their creativity and imagination.

Overall assessment:

This is an original thesis that provides an insight into a child's narrative as it is undertaken at an age when the child is developing rapidly both their verbal and cognitive skills. Drawing on a large body of data recorded in very natural inter-family interactions, the author has been able to provide and discuss numerous examples of a child's storytelling and of how this reflects their learning to date and the understanding of the world around them. Some of the data samples cited are truly fascinating. The author has clearly worked very hard on collecting and transcribing the data and this has come to a very good effect.

The methodology employed for the analysis of the data is that of Conversation Analysis (CA), which was completely new for the author and prior to the analysis she had to familiarise herself with some of the core readings in this research domain. I think she achieved this most satisfactorily. As manifested in the CA literature review sections as well as in the analysis, the author made every attempt to frame the research topic of a child's narrative and to examine this in the light of the actual storytelling interactions.

The analysis undertaken is in my view rich in terms of its discoveries. The findings about the genre parameters of a story place an emphasis on helping children facilitate, steer and develop their storytelling potential, rather than trying to constrain them by pre-defined and in the minds of adults well-established genre criteria. The numerous instances of newly formed words showcase the creativity and imagination with which children are able to establish relationships with the world around them, a world that to that date might have been for them unknown, unexperienced or even alien. Finally,



the description of the dark elements in Nataalka's storytelling, in my view, forms the best and most original part of the analysis; one that I believe could be further developed as part of an MA dissertation.

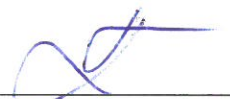
Overall, the analysis is well thought through. The presentation and discussion of 28 data samples is substantial. As Marie's supervisor, I would like to appreciate the independence and initiative with which Marie undertook all parts of her research as it was through her diligence, industriousness and considered thinking that she was able to arrive at a number of novel findings.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

10. července 2019

Datum



Podpis