



## POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: ***THE MOTIVATION FOR THE USE OF METAPHOR IN BIRD NAMES***

Autor/ka práce: **Dominik Melski A17141**

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

Oponent/ka bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Helena Lohrová, Ph.D.**

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### **Stručná charakteristika práce / Short characteristics of the thesis**

Dominik Melski's undergraduate dissertation explores the possible reasons that motivate speakers to use metaphor in the naming units of natural organisms. To achieve the set goal, the author firstly conceptualises the theoretical frame that underpins both the hypothesis stipulated and the analysis undertaken. He subsequently carries out an in-depth examination of 724 naming units that he has himself excerpted carefully and organised into a corpus.

In respect of the theoretical frame, here Dominik draws on the well-established literature on metaphor and metonymy (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980; Lakoff 1987 and 1992; Grady, 1997, Ureña and Faber, 2010). He then conceptualises metaphor within the reign of the onomasiological approach as elaborated by Dokulil and Štekauer, from whose work an advancement is made to pilot a more novel proposition formulated by Kos (2019) who argues that from the onomasiological perspective metaphor and metonymy in word formation operate as the core principles for the expression of salient features, not merely as creative choices. This rule-forming principle is attractive especially as its prevalent effect reflected in the economy of expression seems logical. It was therefore more than natural to subject this potentially new paradigm to the analysis of a sound sample of relevant naming units.

The compilation of this specialised corpus is well thought through, the time invested obvious and must be appreciated. The author also provides a rationale as to which bird names were not included in the corpus. These include: non-transparent names, borderline instances, and naming units that already include names of different birds, and therefore may be possibly considered metaphorical.

The actual analysis of the naming units is well-contained and clearly structured. Depending on the type of salient feature(s) reflected by the metaphor, the author sorts the selected bird names into the following categories: colour, shape, sound, pattern, size, and dynamic salient feature. In addition, a category consisting of the names that merge more than one of the bird's salient features is included.

The dissertation comprises 56 pages of clearly structured and well-presented text followed by References and the Appendix listing and categorising all naming units considered in the analysis.



### **Celkové zhodnocení / Overall assessment**

This is a superior submission, one confirming the old-time paradigm that when a student researcher follows in the footsteps of his supervisor, the crosspollination and further growth of their ideas can be most fruitful.

At the level of an undergraduate dissertation, this is an exceptionally strong piece of work that has been written in the most cultivated manner. The author articulates complex ideas with a high degree of sophistication, yet conveys these comprehensively and clearly to the reader. The writing is lucid, supremely fluent and to the point. The author clearly demonstrates a sound grasp of the subject matter, systematically pursues the research question, and time and time again demonstrates the academic rigour with which he approached his research.

Apart from little inconsistencies (e.g., p. 10 absence of an explicit page reference when citing directly, an absence or wrong use of an odd article e.g., p. 10 – is exclusive human attribute, p. 53 - the metaphorical expressions are used in the bird names), I did not determine any major deficiencies in this, in my view, an excellent submission. If anything, I would wish to be economical, and merely state here: errors are rare, having no, or at most, trivial impact on the messages communicated. The messages, on the other hand, draw on meticulous research, demonstrate independent and considered thinking, and have the potential to develop into novel, even more robust research findings in this considerably niche morphological area.

I would like to express my compliments on the quality of the work achieved.

Areas for discussion:

- 1) As you examined the selected bird names not only in English and you have pondered their realisation in other languages, to what extent do you consider your findings being universal? Please discuss in respect of the Czech language.
- 2) From a personal perspective what was the most valuable aspect of this research experience and how do you plan to build on that?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

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8. 6. 2020

Datum

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Podpis