



## POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

---

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

Název práce: **The motivation for the use of metaphors in bird names**

Autor práce: **Dominik Melski**

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

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

---

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

The thesis deals with the question of what motivation language users have for using metaphors in naming. First, it provides a description of the theoretical phenomena relevant for the topic, namely the various approaches to metaphor in language and onomasiological approaches to word-formation. Then it presents the analysis of bird names itself, based on the individual salient features that provide the conceptual basis for naming.

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

The thesis was designed as part of research on an onomasiological perspective in word-formation. It is based on the hypothesis, described in Kos (2019), that the use of metaphors in naming is motivated by the resulting economy of expression (in comparison to their literal expression), i.e. it leads to morphologically simpler terms, or by the ability to express salient features that are literally inexpressible. The aim of the thesis was to show to what extent this hypothesis is relevant on an analysis of a large sample of data and determine which type of motivation is most prevalent within the sample.

The thesis has reached its goal. The author managed to penetrate into the discussed issues, which is also proved by the fact that he does not strictly follow the original classification, but he has developed his own methodology to the analysis. The analysis itself as well as its results bring new facts and perspectives from which the topic can be treated. It is thus a valuable contribution to research on the formation of new naming units.

The only minor reservation I have about the conception of the work concerns colour metaphors, namely that the author does not distinguish between novel and lexicalized metaphors, such as *golden*, *silver* (p.58). Their use as expressions of colour is already documented by standard dictionaries and they could thus be understood as literal expression.

Also I have a few questions concerning the analysis of individual names:

*Stilt* (p. 35) is classified under literal inexpressibility - however, cannot the same features be expressed by the literal *\*long leg(s)*?

Are *barley-sower* and *liver-bird* (p.59) really motivated by shape?

Are *honey buzzard* (p. 62) and *mouse hawk* (p. 63) really metaphorical? They both seem to be motivated by their diet, thus being metonymical.



Could you please provide some reasoning for why metaphorical names with humans as the source domain typically have the onomasiological base unexpressed?

Also, why do you think that white and black colours have the tendency to be expressed by humans as source domains?

**The thesis is written in a readable language with occasional mistakes only.**

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace:      výborně

\_\_\_\_\_  
2.6.2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Datum

\_\_\_\_\_  
Podpis