POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The Use of Articles in English Newspaper Headlines**

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Short characteristic of the thesis
The thesis deals with a specific area of English grammar, namely the use of articles in newspaper headlines. The goal of the work is to suggest tendencies in their omission and show how these tendencies are consistent on a sample of data from two different types of newspapers - a broadsheet newspaper and a tabloid newspaper.

In her thesis, the author first provides general characteristics of British newspapers and their headlines, and the initial part is concluded by a detailed classification of the use of articles in English. This introductory part is followed by analyses of a sample of newspaper headlines in terms of the use of articles. These analyses are then summarized.

Overall assessment
The overall structure of the thesis is logical and clear as it first deals with theoretical issues which are then applied on a specific analysis. However, I do have some reservations about the interpretation and processing of the acquired data as it does not lead to the expected results. My major reservation is that the thesis fails to provide a general summary of "headline grammar rules" in terms of the use of articles and perhaps the level of consistency in the application of such rules.

The idea to select headlines from two different years and within each year from four consecutive months is definitely good as it provides variety of headlines in terms of their topics and their editors (who in theory could follow some idiosyncratic tendencies). However, I do not believe that the analyses should be carried out for each month separately as we can hardly expect that some major tendencies in the use of articles would differ from month to month, so the results are dependent on the choice of headlines for the specific month and rather skew the overall image. Also, the tables provided (e.g. p. 68) do not suggest clear overall tendencies, in other words we cannot see the forest for the trees.

The division of articles in the summary of the analyses into the three major categories, namely definite, indefinite, and zero articles, appears to be too broad. This is partly made up by the subsequent tables (e.g. p. 70), but again this does not lead to any clear outcome in terms of the suggestion of tendencies.

At Page 72 the author provides an analysis of headlines types according to their syntactic structure. This is definitely an important aspect for setting the rules of the use of articles, but it is not clear why she provides such an analysis after the first results since I believe that such as classification should have been the starting point for

clarifying the tendencies in the use of articles. Even though the author provides a table connecting the syntactic types with the (non)omission of articles, the table and the description that follows are not very illustrative.

Among the minor problems is the use of terminology, specifically the division into correct and incorrect use. We cannot claim that the articles are used "incorrectly" in newspaper headlines as they simply follow different rules within their stylistic category. We should rather speak of "omission" of articles in contrast to the general rules and perhaps state that there are also some other differences in such rules (e.g. the case provided at p. 23). However, this could be easily remedied by just changing the terminology, and it has almost no impact on the overall outcome.

Another minor comment is on the size of the samples for the two analysed newspaper, The Guardian and The Sun. I see no reason why the two samples should differ in size, but on the other hand it does not seem to pose any major problem for the results of the thesis.

The thesis is written in good English, the author's analyses of the articles appear to be correct, and she provides the full list of headlines for analysis and the actual analyses in the appendix. The reason why I suggest the overall grade "good" is that I believe that the processing of the acquired data should lead to a more comprehensive, clear, and detailed description of tendencies in the use of articles in the this specific stylistic area of English grammar.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: dobře

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