



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Učitelství anglického jazyka a literatury pro střední školy (dvouoborové)**

Název práce: **Traumatic Events: A Linguistic Perspective**

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Short characteristics of the thesis

The present thesis focuses on the discourse of traumatic events from a linguistic perspective. People who have experienced a traumatic event and have to talk about it, use language in a different way compared to usual situations. The thesis aims to describe this specific language use, identify main features of this type of language, and define the most important linguistic phenomena connected with the discourse of traumatic events from both a theoretical and applied point of view and contrast them with other common type of discourse. To fulfil all these objectives, the author of the thesis adopts an interdisciplinary approach.

Overall assessment

The discourse of traumatic events is very specific and different from usual language use. It is an interesting area of linguistic study, but in order for the analysis of this discourse not to be superficial, an interdisciplinary approach must be taken. Therefore, the author of this work uses knowledge not only from the field of theoretical and applied linguistics, but also from psychology, law, and psycholinguistics. This interdisciplinarity is in line with contemporary linguistic research.

The thesis is logically and clearly structured, comprising a total of seven chapters. In the first chapter, the author introduces the discourse of traumatic events and explains why it is necessary to study and pay attention to these experiences in linguistics. She also mentions the specifics of this discourse and why the nature of its study is, or at least should be, interdisciplinary. The author also outlines the aims of the thesis, how she intends to achieve them and briefly describes what materials she investigated and used for analysis. Methodology employed in the thesis is presented in a more detailed way in Chapter Two.

Chapter Three deals with traumatic events from a psychological perspective, which is important, because this psychological context cannot be omitted in the analysis, as already mentioned above. These considerations are very relevant since they explain why the language people use to describe traumatic experiences is different from the language used in everyday situations. Closely linked to these psychological aspects are the psycholinguistic ones, very thoroughly described in Chapter Four. Theoretical considerations discussed here are applied to symptoms of war veterans who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Apart from various health issues, these people are not able to talk about their experiences. In other words, they are not able to produce a narrative which would be coherent. This is connected with their insufficient ability to concentrate.



From this it follows that interpretation of their speech is very difficult and that a listener should be very sensitive when talking to them. At the same time, this is a proof that psycholinguistic aspects play a very important role in analysing traumatic events from a linguistic viewpoint.

Chapter Five is devoted to the characteristics of linguistic phenomena which are relevant to the interpretation of the discourse of traumatic experiences. These phenomena include narrative, coherence, and conversational maxims. At first, all three concepts are theoretically described. After that, the author supports her theoretical considerations with a detailed analysis of real-life cases she found in the ECHR (the European Court of Human Rights). All these analyses are extremely valuable because they provide a completely different and new perspective on the problematics of a linguistic analysis of traumatic experiences. This is where I see the most important contribution of this diploma thesis. At the same time, it would be even better if more illustrative examples of analysed linguistic phenomena were included.

Equally important is Chapter Six which focuses on specific features of children's discourse in relation to traumatic events. Children are very sensitive and vulnerable in general, and even more so when they experience a traumatic event. As the author correctly points out, children's identity is not fully developed, which results in influencing their language production. Moreover, they are still learning how to express their emotions. Therefore, it is very important to know how to listen and talk to them sensitively. The author again supports all her considerations with a real-life case from the ECHR, this time with the example of a sexually abused young boy.

Chapter Seven summarises all findings and draws conclusions.

All in all, the present thesis is very original and contributes to the topic of a linguistic analysis of traumatic events considerably. The author proves that she is able of critical analysis of sources, analytic thinking, and sensitive interpretation of the data.

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **v ý b o r n ě**

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Datum

Podpis