POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura – Biologie pro vzdělávání**

Název práce: **Linguistic expression of sound in bird names motivated by their vocalization**

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Short characteristics of the thesis

The thesis deals with the ways the perception of non-linguistic sound is coded in language on a sample of English bird names. The author briefly presents the theoretical background the work is set in, namely that of an onomasiological perspective to word-formation combining Dokulil's onomasiological theory with aspects of cognitive linguistics, and in the chapters that follow, he provides the classification of the ways bird vocalizations are coded in language, and he applies this classification on the data sample.

Overall assessment

The work in general meets the requirements for a successful thesis; however, a number of shortcomings are still apparent.

The description of the theoretical issues is rather superficial and it lacks the ambition to clearly elucidate the questions of an onomasiological approach to someone who is not already familiar with the topic. Nevertheless, this is not the core of the thesis, as it "merely" provides the background for the subsequent analysis.

The analysis itself lacks the description of the way the author compiled the data and how he worked with them. Near the end of the thesis (p. 40) we learn that the total number of names analysed was 340, but there is no explanation of how large the original corpus was, on what principles the names were chosen (were there any that were excluded from the sample?), and how the data were processed. If the analysis is approached from an onomasiological perspective, it would seem logical if the data were assigned to their concepts (i.e., bird species).

This clearer structuring of the data would be relevant for the actual analysis as some names appear to be either spelling (e.g., p. 11, *omscreech* and *holm-screech*) or morphological variants (e.g., p. 14, *moss cheep* and *moss cheaper*) of the same name for the same species. It would require some justification that all these tokens are considered as individual units. The frequencies suggested under individual tables would then become more relevant.

The most significant drawback of the thesis is the unclear structure of individual chapters. This is most apparent in Chapter 3.3.1.2 (Processing of the part of ICM through the phonological system) as the chapter is structured in a rather confusing way. It mentions the term *phonesthemes*, for which we cannot find any definition nor justification how the term is relevant for the analysis, and then inconsistently deals with

the topics of the syllable structure, the quality of vowels, the consonant, and the number of syllables. This chapter brings interesting and relevant findings, but its structure would deserve to be more coherent.

The author is original in combining the "biological" classification of birds' vocalization with its coding in language, i.e., how he connects the types of vocalization with the number of syllables. However, he fails to comment on the frequency of the individual types (p. 24), e.g., whether "series and trills" are thus easier to imitate or are more salient for the hearer. Moreover, the overall frequency may be somewhat misleading as it appears that the names in the right-hand column starting with *but-for-but* should be listed in the other column as they have a three-syllable structure.

There is a number of mistakes in the analysis, a major of which is in the table at p. 11, which also includes different names comprising *shrike*, but this name is not etymologically related (it is not a spelling variant) of the verb *shriek*.

It would also be beneficial for the thesis if it included an appendix with the list of bird species and their names motivated by sound.

In conclusion, the thesis has met its goal, it brings interesting findings, but the author could have devoted more energy to the way these findings are presented in order that the work is generally more coherent and clearer, especially in the description of the theoretical background.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: velmi dobře

_____28.5.2021_____   _____
Datum   Podpis