



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **Oscillation of plural forms in English nouns**

Autorka práce: **Anna Diepoldová**

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

Oponentka bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Alena Prošková, Ph.D.**

Quality of Research

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

The topic of the thesis is suitable for the scope and well defined:

Sets clear goals or questions for research: 3

Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy: 2

Demonstrates a good understanding of the linguistic works discussed: 2

Engages with the subject critically and analytically: 2

Uses relevant scholarship meaningfully: 1

2) Comment shortly on the quality of the research presented in the thesis:

Anna Diepoldová's bachelor's thesis addresses the practical subject of oscillations between regular and irregular plural forms in selected English nouns of foreign origin. In the introduction, she provides a brief overview of the general rules governing formation plural forms in English. This is followed by the analytical section of the thesis, which draws upon data from two language corpora: the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* and the *British National Corpus*.

The selection of nouns for the analysis is based on examples found in publications by Libuše Dušková and Randolph Quirk. While the research methodology is formally sound, it lacks a deeper critical insight into the investigated issues. The author derives her conclusions primarily from a simple comparison of the frequency of regular and irregular noun plural forms in the aforementioned corpora, aligning them with the conclusions presented in Dušková and Quirk's publications. The thesis concludes by summarizing the predominant plural forms for the selected noun examples across spoken and written language, as well as in neutral and formal styles.

Quality of Writing

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

Has a clear and suitable structure: 3

Employs appropriate register and academic style: 2

Uses correct and relevant terminology: 2

Adheres to academic thesis guidelines, format and MLA style guide: 3

Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary): 2

Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes: 2



2) Comment shortly on the quality of the writing presented in the thesis:

The thesis demonstrates a clear and logical structure. Its scope aligns well with the chosen topic. The formal arrangement of the content, along with its language, adheres to the official requirements; however, there are instances where the language appears overly simplistic. Greater attention should have been given to the graphical layout of tables and the overall graphic design of the work (for instance, tables on pages 13 and 14; or three unnecessary blank pages around page 43). While the paper is relatively free of major grammar and spelling errors, this may be attributed to the author's oversimple writing style in English.

Overall Review and Assessment

(short description of the thesis and its findings, what has been achieved, and areas for improvement)

The presented thesis does not introduce any original or innovative findings, it rather confirms what has already been stated in Dušková and Quirk. The author should have provided more concise definitions of formal and neutral styles in which the oscillation of regular and irregular plural forms is subsequently analysed. It would have been also beneficial, if the author had included a list of examples of nouns whose plural forms correspond to the same patterns as the analysed sample words. Moreover, the conclusion of the thesis should have placed greater emphasis on the general noun types represented by the analysed examples, which could assist potential readers in determining the appropriate plural forms based on stylistic and contextual considerations. Despite the critical points I have raised, I recommend the thesis for the defence because the author has demonstrated capability in conducting fundamental linguistic research and she showed the ability to effectively utilize language corpora.

Questions for Defence

1) Could you list some examples of words similar to those you analysed? How might these additional examples further enrich the understanding of the oscillation between regular and irregular plural forms in English nouns of foreign origin?

2) Could you provide general criteria or guidelines a writer or speaker should consider when making the choice between the regular or irregular plural form based on your research?

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace:

dobře

16. 8. 2023

Datum

Podpis