



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **Growing up bilingually: A survey into the aspects of language acquisition when two different languages are learned at the same time**

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Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Helena Lohrová, Ph.D.**

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Short characteristics of the thesis

The bachelor thesis explores the topic of growing up bilingually when two different languages are learned at the same time. To gain an insight into the early life of a bilingual family from both the perspectives of parents and their bilingual children, 8 families (living in Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates) were subjected to an online survey. This inquiry was followed up, in some cases, with a semi-structured interview. The aim of the study was to identify the strategies used by parents in facilitating their children's acquisition of two languages and examine the effectiveness of these strategies from the perspectives of both parents and their children. It is this cross-generational comparison which creates a qualitative dimension to the research completed and through which this small case study contributes especially to the sociolinguistic perspective on bilingualism.

Overall assessment

This thesis is a fine piece of work displaying drive and enthusiasm to undertake a live research project. The research is written up with a confidence, mastery and sophistication of the English language. Overall, the thesis has all components expected and required of an undergraduate dissertation.

If any shortcomings should be pointed out, these would perhaps include:

- Occasional generalisations at places where a formulation of and support for a concrete argument would be expected and desirable (this applies particularly to section summaries and data interpretation);
- non-standard use of italics to mark direct citations;
- little detail provided on the follow-up interviews.

Otherwise, the extent and structure of the survey constructed must be appreciated. An attempt to create two mirroring and balanced versions of the questionnaire (one targeted at the parents and the other at the bilingual children) is notable. The fact that author constructed the questionnaire herself and took the time to pilot it deserves merit. The analysis and presentation of the data collected is reasonably thorough, well considered, and informative. It needs to be pointed out that the volume of the qualitative data collected was substantial. I also view positively the visual presentation of the families' sociolinguistic contexts, which was designed heuristically to guide the reader through the different and often diverse family set ups.



Particularly interesting are the findings regarding the sometime disparate perceptions of the life experiences of bilingual upbringing as recalled by the parents and their children. These confirm the position of bilingualism as that of a socially constructed phenomenon where both the parents and their children take up the roles of different social actors. Language choice then cannot be viewed only as an effective means of communication but also an act of identity (Le Page & Tabouret-Keller, 1985). This finding particularly resonates with the responses of the bilingual children surveyed as for them being bilingual is not merely a matter of acquiring a language but a means of experiencing a different, and to them perhaps more attractive, social reality.

Areas for discussion:

- 1) Which of your findings do you consider most valuable and how did it/they inform your view into the aspects of language acquisition when two different languages are learned at the same time?

I do recommend the thesis for defence and I propose the evaluation "excellent" (výborně).

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

30th May 2022

Datum

Podpis