

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Lucie Gurbanová

Title: Lexical analysis of the lyrics from the album *Endless Forms Most Beautiful* by Nightwish

Length: 72

Text Length: 49

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.		
7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Quotes, titles and references are formatted incorrectly throughout the thesis.

Final Comments & Questions

What is the research question of the thesis? It would seem that the student wishes to quantify the rhetorical figures in a particular album (and not conduct a lexical analysis). It is not evident that this is a sufficiently challenging research aim for a BA thesis. There is no interpretation of the results; there is no survey of theoretical literature that deals with such analysis of poetry or song lyrics, or indeed any literary texts, more generally. Instead, the theoretical section summarizes the definitions of figures of rhetoric (and along the way draws repeatedly on a morph of Spark Notes, hardly a good reference tool for an academic thesis). It is also puzzling that the student does not consider the fact that Tuomas Holopainen, Nightwish's songwriter, composes in English, though it is not his native language: this raises the issue of English as a Lingua Franca used in literature, but the student does not register this.

Therefore, the thesis seems more like a workbook extended exercise to identify and count rhetorical figures. This is why I have difficulty seeing why it should be passed. I appreciate the attempt to bring what seems to be one of her own favorite bands under academic scrutiny (it certainly must have been an interesting experience for her to apply such analytical tools to this materials). Perhaps during her defence the student will be able to explain to me what I have missed here. I look forward to hearing her ideas.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 3 August 2019

Signature:

