

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: **Tereza Golčáková**
 Title: *The Competition of the Gerund and Infinitive in an English Sentence*
 Length: 58 pages
 Text Length: 24 pages

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 author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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	

Final Comments & Questions

The theoretical background has been well researched using a variety of sources, some of which contain conflicting opinions on the categorisation of gerunds and participles. There is also a discussion of the verbal noun as a separate category; however, this distinction does not seem especially helpful for the purposes of this work – as indeed the title itself implies. This section is very well written although, just as a minor aside, *loving* in one of the Dušková examples on p. 10 should probably read *living*.

Problems begin with the research chapter, primarily because the author does not appear to be trying actually to prove anything. It is simply a matter of selecting two hundred excerpts from a book, labelling them according to whether verbs were linked to a gerund or infinitive, and adding some pie charts to make the results, such as they are, look more attractive. How this advances the academic cause – if indeed there is one here – is not entirely clear. If the concept were to be pursued further, using hundreds more examples, we only would end up with several more lists demonstrating what we already know: some English verbs are followed by an infinitive, others by a gerund construction, while in certain cases both are possible with either a clear or sometimes more subtle difference in meaning. Nor is it obvious why the author chose to include English explanations of her excerpts in the appendix, since it may reasonably be assumed that an averagely educated reader could work out the meaning for him-/herself. Strictly speaking, the Czech translations are also completely unnecessary, since the main text makes no reference at all to English-Czech translation issues.

Technically there are problems with the format inasmuch as the main text should begin with 1. Introduction, starting on p. 1, rather than an unnumbered Introduction on p. 2, followed by 1. Theoretical Background. However, a far more serious issue is that the main text is approximately 20% short of meeting the minimum stipulated length for a work of this kind. If this in itself is not considered a sufficiently serious shortcoming to justify failing, the recommended grade would be “dobře”.

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 5th June 2020

Signature: