

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: **Martina Lucká**

Title: **Varieties of British and American English**

Length: 71 pages

Text Length: 49 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	The bulk of the work consists merely of a list of newspaper extracts; the author's voice should be much more evident than it is.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See final remarks overleaf.
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 main problem with this bachelor work is that pp. 19-44 consists of selected pairs of extracts from newspapers accompanied with a single phrase 'commentary' by the author. In other words, it may be strong on categorisation but there is very little by way of serious in-depth analysis. As such, the work as a whole may be described as 'acceptable' but no more.

Questions

How did the author come up with the hypothesis that *the varieties might not differ at all* (p. 1)? This seems a bizarre starting point for, if it were true, the term 'variety' would be *a priori* redundant.

Considerable space is devoted to differences in pronunciation – but in what way is this relevant to a work focusing on the print media?

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 20th August 2012

Signature:

