



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of English and ELT Methodology

A Review of a Final Thesis

submitted to the Department of English and ELT Methodology,
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Name and titles of the reviewer:

Reviewed as: a supervisor an opponent

Author of the thesis: Karolína Svatoňová

Title of the thesis: American English in Czech Middle Schools in Relation to Sociolinguistic and Cultural Preferences of the Students

Year of submission: 2023

Submitted as: a bachelor's thesis a master's thesis

Level of expertise:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Factual errors:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis frequent less serious serious

Chosen methodology:

original and appropriate appropriate barely adequate inadequate

Results:

original original and derivative non-trivial compilation cited from sources copied

Scope of the thesis:

too large appropriate to the topic adequate inadequate

Bibliography (number and selection of titles):

above average (scope or rigor) average below average inadequate

Typographical and formal level:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Language:

excellent very good average below average inadequate

Typos:

almost none appropriate to the scope of the thesis numerous



Brief description of the thesis (by the supervisor, ca. 100-200 words):

The thesis investigated experience with and attitudes towards different varieties of English (namely British and American English) in high school students in the Czech Republic. Data were collected in a large-scale survey study; students were asked to perform various language-proficiency and cultural-proficiency tasks and give their opinions on a variety of cultural and linguistic subjects pertaining to the use of British or American English. Results demonstrated a preference for American culture coupled with a preference for the British linguistic variety in the students. The methodology and data analysis are sound, and the results are reliable. The conclusions drawn are reasonable and can contribute to our understanding of cultural and linguistic attitudes in Czech high school students.

Review, comments and notes (ca. 100-200 words)

Strong points of the thesis:

The introduction is very extensive. The literature cited is discussed in a meaningful way and interwoven with the current study.

The data collection procedure included a large number of participants, making the data particularly reliable. The data analysis is very good, many of the graphs included are informative and nicely done. The discussion of the results as well as the conclusion section are well written and place the findings of the current study within the literature.

Weak points of the thesis:

Some of the graphs are redundant (e.g., pie chart on p. 43).

Not all survey questions needed to be discussed – a better selection of which questions are important and the focus of the study and which questions do not contribute much to the problem at hand should have been made. For instance, figures 7 & 8 are also not very informative. In general, fewer figures would have sufficed.

Questions to answer during the Defence and suggested points of discussion:

1. How do you interpret the correlation between cultural preference and linguistic preference in the students?
2. Please comment on the teachers' perspective: how do the students' perceptions and attitudes fit with those of the teachers?

Other comments:

The introduction is quite extensive, maybe too extensive at times. The historical perspective could have been kept shorter. What is most important to the present study is probably the section on "Dominance of British English in TESOL".

I was also a bit confused about the use of the term "Czech lands", but that may be my historical ignorance. In general, the historical overview going back to the 19th century was not needed for the setting and assumptions of the present study.

Figure captions should not mention the type of graph shown (e.g., "Boxplot")



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I am not sure what the red squares surrounding the "1" in the figures mean.

Proposed grade:

excellent very good good fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:

Prague, May 23, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Lena".