

# TEMPLATE OF THE MINUTES OF THE DISSERTATION DEFENCE

## **The minutes of the dissertation defence**

Student: Mgr. Štěpán Pavlík

Study Programme: P7310 Filologie

Branch of Study: XJAA Jazyky zemí Asie a Afriky

Habilitation Title: “The Description of Namuzi Language”

Language of the Dissertation: English

Language of the Defence: English

Supervisor: Mgr. Veronika Zikmundová, Ph.D.

Opponents: PhDr. David Sehnal, M.A., Ph.D., Jozsef Szakos, Dr.

Date of Defence: June 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

Place of Defence: Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Celetná 21, room nr. 102

Chair of the Board: doc. PhDr. Petr Zemánek, CSc.

Members of the Board: prof. RNDr. Václav Blažek, CSc., Mgr. Viktor Elšík Ph.D., Mgr. Jakub Maršálek, Ph.D., prof. Zdeňka Švarcová, Dr.

Persons present: According to the attendance list

*11:00* The chair of the board Petr Zemánek started the defence, introduced himself, members of the board present and opponents present. The chair of the board connected via Skype Jozsef Szakos located in Hongkong (SAR of PRC). Then he introduced the student to the persons present.

*11:05* The supervisor introduced briefly to the persons present his evaluation of the student’s study and dissertation, given in her written report. The supervisor further commented on publication prospect of the dissertation and expressed her belief that this “high quality description of the endangered language” will highly enrich our understanding of Tibeto-Burman languages.

*11:15* The student presented the propositions of his dissertation to the persons present. He presented current features of the sociolinguistic situation of Namuzi people and their language within the context of a) official minority policy of PRC, b) framework of current theory of Tibeto-Burman languages (with special focus on the genetic affiliation to the Naic sub-group of

languages, c) existing research (Sun and Fan (1979), Yin (2016)). The applicant further described the methodology employed during his field research and subsequent description of the language. Among important contributions of his work he named a) first comprehensive grammatical description of the language (including special phonetic features of the Namuzi: nazalized glotal fricative, unprenazalized bilabial thrilles, voiceless lateral approximant etc.), b) typological description of the language as an agglutinative language, yet with strong tendency of dropping affixes (probably influenced by the isolating Chinese language), c) attesting of the affiliation to the Naic sub-group of languages.

*11:35* The opponent Jozsef Szakos presented the main points of his report and the conclusion, stating that he recommends the submitted dissertation for defence and praising the work as “a cornerstone of descriptive linguistics concerning Tibeto-Burman linguistics.” He further praised an outstanding analysis of Namuzi classifiers and raised several questions concerning (possible) Namuzi tonal system and the future archivation of materials (recordings) used.

*11:45* The opponent David Sehnal presented the main points of his report and the conclusion, stating that he recommends the submitted dissertation for defence. David Sehnal especially praised applicant’s innovative system of Namuzi transcription based both on Latin and Tibetan scripts, which could substantially improve possibilities of the future Namuzi research. He put these questions to the student: “What are the possible links between Chinese and Namuzi tonal systems?”

*11:55* The student reacted to the opponents’ comments and their questions:

The applicant analyzed six different tonal contours within Namuzi but acknowledges the necessity of further research on the topic, especially on the tone sandhi. Concerning the transcription systems of Namuzi he talked about several ways how to simplify his systems for the future use.

*12:10* The chair of the board opened the discussion.

These persons spoke in the following discussion:

Viktor Elšík asked what were the biggest surprises compare to the previous research on Namuzi.

Applicant commented on the problematic reliability of the existing Chinese research (dependence on Chinese grammar description methods and lack of understanding concerning specific namuzi phonetic features, especial initial clusters).

Zdenka Švarcová asked about the system of deictic pronouns. Applicant described the system.

Zdenka Švarcová asked about the current state of preservation activities concerning Namuzi. Applicant commented on possibilities of Nmauzi language revitalization, which is not much probable under current status of the language (i.e. language of an unrecognized minority).

Petr Zemánek commented on language utterance problems and prespective of the contact linguistics (Namuzi speakers tending to drop unnecessary language parts in the context of Chinese).

00:00 The chair of the board ended the defence itself and the board initiated a private meeting on classification of the dissertation defence.

The chair of the board announced to the student and persons present the result of the defence: The dissertation defence was classified pass.

Recorder: Vladimír Glomb, Ph.D.

Name and signature of the chair of the board:

Name and signature of another member of the board: