A Review of a Bachelor’s Thesis
submitted to the Department of English and ELT Methodology,
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Name and titles of the reviewer: Suzanne Lewis
☐ supervisor ☒ opponent

Author of the thesis: Jana Rumlová

Title of the thesis: Phonetic features of strong Czech accent in English

Year of submission: 2018

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

Overall evaluation of the thesis:
☐ excellent ☒ very good ☐ average ☐ below average ☐ inadequate
Brief description of the thesis (by the supervisor, ca. 100-200 words):

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

Strong points of the thesis:
- Comprehensive theoretical section (chapters 2/3) and General Discussion.
- Good overview of terms.
- Strong individual analysis of speakers

Weak points of the thesis:
- Chosen data, from the pre-recorded spoken archive database, failed to supply enough words containing certain target features (e.g. ð and θ), which made any analysis of this point difficult.
- Correct placement of stress not included in evaluation of speakers’ accents.
- Grammatical issues with articles throughout, especially in the Title of the thesis.

Questions to answer during the Defence and suggested points of discussion:
- In the introduction you write that ‘pronunciation is generally the first sign that can reveal whether we are communicating with a native or non-native speaker as it is rather easy to avoid intricacies to be found in all the other layers of language’. Can you expound upon the section highlighted in bold in this statement.
- Your discussion on what causes an accent (2.1) was detailed but had no conclusion. Which line of thinking do you most agree with and why?
- Why was data chosen for analysis which did not include enough examples of all target features?

Other comments:

I hereby ☒ recommend ☐ do not recommend to accept the bachelor’s thesis.

And I propose the following grade:
☐ excellent ☒ very good ☐ good ☐ fail

Place, date and signature of the reviewer:
Prague, 28th August 2018, S. Lewis