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 (eg 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