

Vyjádření školitele studenta Mgr. Slavomíra Čéplö k průběhu studia a k disertační práci

“Constituent Order in Maltese: a quantitative analysis”

předkládané v roce 2018 na oboru *matematická lingvistika*

I. Hodnocení celého doktorského studia

Mr. Slavomír Čéplö started his doctoral studies in 2012. His study duties were fulfilled according to plan during the whole course of his studies, including personal attendance on seminars held within the frame of this study (the student had to commute between Praha and Bratislava). During the whole study, he presented himself as a student with active interest in the topic of his dissertation, with broader perspective of a linguistic study of Maltese, based on corpus approach and mostly using formal means of analysis.

Within his study, he managed to receive a support from the GAUK agency, and as a result he managed to publish an article in IF journal¹, further on he actively took part in the discussions on Maltese linguistics, delivered several contributions on prestigious conferences related to his topics, in 2017 he even was one of the main conveners of a conference held in Bratislava². His publication list during his studies is a rich one, most of them in international forums.³

II. Celkové zhodnocení disertační práce

The dissertation and its topic is to a great deal a result of an independent work of the student. The topic is based on data retrieval of a large corpus of Maltese, compiled by the disertant himself. The research was designed by the student, the tutor's intervention was not crucial.

The dissertation is relatively long (286 pages), and the disertant left many topics off from the final version, the reason being mainly the length of the proposed work.

As for the structure of the work, in a very brief overview, the author in the first 50 pages covers information on the state of the art of the topic with a fitting survey of recent positions. After that, he formulates his research questions including the approaches for their analysis. The subsequent part is dedicated to the characteristics of the corpus of written Maltese, compiled by the author himself (both the corpus and the treebank built above the corpus. This part is relatively long, some 120 pages, but it seems necessary for correct evaluation of his analyses in the subsequent parts. The author chooses the Universal Dependencies approach, as a relatively uniform theory that should enable analyses also across the borders of individual languages. In the next 60 pages one finds his analysis of the constituent

¹ Slavomír Čéplö, Ján Batora, Adam Benkato, Jiří Milička, Christophe Pereira, Petr Zemánek: Mutual Intelligibility of Spoken Maltese, Libyan Arabic and Tunisian Arabic Functionally Tested: A Pilot Study. *Folia Linguistica* 50/2016, 583-628

² Sixth International Conference on Maltese Linguistics, June 8th – June 9th, Comenius University in Bratislava.

³ Např. Čéplö, Slavomír (2014). “An overview of object reduplication in Maltese”. In: *Perspectives on Maltese Linguistics*. Ed. by Albert Borg, Sandro Caruana, and Alexandra Vella. Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 201–222.

— (2017). “Focus particles in Maltese: A corpus survey”. In: *Advances in Maltese Linguistics*. Ed. by Benjamin Saade and Mauro Tosco. Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 87–120.

Čéplö, Slavomír and Lonneke van der Plas (2017). “Light verb constructions in Maltese: Evidence from corpora”. A paper read at the Sixth International Conference on Maltese Linguistics, June 8th – June 9th, Comenius University in Bratislava.

order in Maltese. In conclusions, there is a short summary of the results (could be expanded), and prospects for future research.

Should the overall level of the dissertation be judged, in my view it is very high. The author's style is a readable one, and a vivid one, although sometimes maybe too sharp or quick. He can very well capture the substance of the approaches, his arguments are in great majority of cases well built. He proved excellent abilities to work with different types of theories and analytical tools and to rightly appreciate their pros and cons. As a result, we find a persuasive analysis of the data collected.

I had the opportunity to raise all the objections during the phase of the writing of the dissertation, that is why I do not ask any further questions here and leave this space to the opponents of the dissertation.

III. Závěr

In my view the dissertation of Mr. Čéplö meets all the requirements of a doctoral dissertation. It proposes an original research based on data collection of his own that form a representative foundation for the study itself. There is new and original information in the dissertation, the arguments are well founded and persuasively justified. As such, the work can be submitted for defense.

I recommend the presented work to the defense and my tentative assesment is **PASSED**.

Domnívám se, že předložená práce bezpečně splňuje všechny požadavky kladené na práci disertační. Jde o originální výzkum, postavený na vlastním sběru dat, která tvoří reprezentativní podklad pro samotnou studii. Práce přináší nové poznatky, které jsou podložené a přesvědčivě zdůvodněné. Jako takovou ji podle mého názoru lze předložit k obhajobě.

Předloženou disertační práci doporučuji k obhajobě a předběžně klasifikuji jako **PROSPĚL**

V Praze dne 10.6.2018

Petr Zemánek