

Topics of dissertation theses at the Faculty of Arts of UPJŠ for academic year 2024/2025

Terms and conditions of the admission procedure:

<https://www.upjs.sk/app/uploads/sites/7/2024/03/pk-PhD-2024-2025-EN-2.pdf>

Study programme: British and American Studies

Supervisor: Prof. PaedDr. Livia Körtvélyessy, PhD.

Form of study: full-time study

1.

Topic: Experimenting with onomatopoeia

Abstract: Traditionally, onomatopoeia is studied within one language as a part of sound symbolism. However, recent research in this area shows that sound picturesque words differ from other sound-symbolic words to a large extent; the main difference stems from their image-iconic nature. It can therefore be assumed that onomatopoeic words have a specific position in the mental lexicon, different from non-onomatopoeic words. The question is how much their cognitive processing differs from the non-onomatopoeic vocabulary. The answer to this question should be provided by a series of experiments, which should be developed and implemented within the framework of the onomasiological approach characteristic of the Košice Linguistics School.

Supervisor: Prof. Mgr. Renáta Panocová, PhD.

Form of study: full-time study

1.

Topic: Contrastive analysis of compounds and related constructions with genitives and adjectives.

Abstract: In English, nominal constructions with a genitive modifier are often used to name concepts, e.g. women's universities, boy's school, children's book. Similar constructions in German are usually analysed as compounds with a linking element. Thus, Publikumspreis ('audience award') has a modifier that is formally identical to the genitive of Publikum, but the -s- is traditionally taken not to be inflectional. Corresponding names in Slovak often use genitive nouns (e.g. cena publika). The classification of such constructions with a genitive presents a theoretical problem, because the same construction is used to express possession. A similar ambiguity arises for the modification by adjectives. In German, Literaturpreis and Filmpreis correspond to English literary prize and film prize and Slovak literárna cena and filmová cena. The languages differ in their use of nominal compounds or constructions with denominal adjectives. It will be investigated to what extent genitive elements and denominal adjectives play a role in the structural and semantic distinction between compounds and phrases in the three languages.

Supervisor: Doc. Mgr. Renáta Timková, PhD.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: SELECTED ASPECTS OF TONAL, TEMPORAL AND FORCE MODULATION OF VOICE.

Abstract: The topic is concerned with the study of sound as the most natural medium for the transmission and reception of language. The aim is to explore selected aspects of prosodic interference from L1 (Language 1 - Slovak language) to L2 (Language 2 - English language) within the framework of second language acquisition.

The theoretical basis for the research of interference of prosodic phenomena is the study by J. Sabol on "Theory of linguistic interference" (Journal of Linguistics, 44, pp. 87-91, 1993). The results of the research will contribute to the knowledge of linguistic interference at the level of suprasegments and offer a platform for further phonological analysis of English prosody in the process of foreign language acquisition.

Supervisor: doc. PhDr. Slávka Janigová, PhD.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: **Clausal embedding in legal English and Slovak**

Abstract: The thesis will tackle the issue of clausal embedding in legal language. Syntactic structures will be approached from a functional-structural perspective in dependency syntax; analyses will be processed by linear notation. They will survey an internal structure of compound and complex sentences, paratactic and hypotactic relations between finite and nonfinite clauses, attachment of dependent syntagmas to the agents/patients of superior structures, depth and syntactic type of embedding of dependent constructions. The research corpus may consist of genre-comparable legal documents from the English law and the Slovak law, or it could also be composed of the English source text and its Slovak translation, which would allow of examining how embedded English sentences are projected into the Slovak compound and complex sentences, or it could be split into two halves, i.e., comparable texts and translated texts, depending on the student's project.

Supervisor: Dr. h. c. prof. Mgr. Slávka Tomaščíková, PhD.

Form of study: part-time study

1.

Topic: **Global and Local in the Discourses of Food in Postmillennial Media**

Abstract: The PhD thesis will analyse various aspects of food and its representation in selected media discourses in the 21st century. The aim of the dissertation thesis is to identify what role food plays in the representation of global and local cultural contexts. Depending on the focus the discourses of UK, US, Slovak and other media will be compared.

Form of study: full-time study

2.

Topic: **Food, Postmillennial Media, and Cultural Diplomacy**

Abstract: The PhD thesis will analyse various aspects of food and its representation in selected media discourses in the 21st century. The aim of the dissertation thesis is to identify what role food plays in the presentation of cultural context in a society and in the country. Depending on the focus the discourses of UK, US, Slovak aspects of food as the means of cultural diplomacy will be compared.

Supervisor: Doc. Mgr. Soňa Šnircová, PhD

Form of study: full-time study

1.

Topic: **Bildungsroman patterns in post-postmodern Anglophone literature**

Abstract: The aim of the research is to examine the continuing influence of the bildungsroman tradition on contemporary Anglophone literature and to map the influence of the post-millennial sensibility on the thematic variations of this genre in the post-postmodern literary context.

Study programme: Social Psychology and Work Psychology

Supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Oľga Orosová, CSc.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: **The psychosocial factors of sexual risk behaviour among young adults**

Abstract: The aim of the dissertation work is to examine the psychosocial factors of sexual risk behaviour among young adults: An application of The Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills (IMB) Model; Mixed Methods design. This research is a part of an International Sex Survey.

Supervisor: Doc. Mgr. Mária Bačíková, PhD.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: **Teacher well-being in the context of intensive parenting ideology**

Abstract: In many countries in recent years, there was observed a significant increase in the phenomenon of “intensive parenting” – the way of parenting where parents invest an excessive amount of energy, time, and finances in their children. Intensive parenting includes overprotective behaviour and overinvolvement in a child's schoolwork and functioning at school. The teacher-parent relationship is one of the most significant factors affecting the teacher's well-being at work. However, less is known about how specific parental overinvolvement in a child's schoolwork relates to the teacher's well-being. The aim of the dissertation is therefore to examine how a teacher perceives such parental behavior, its predictors on the parent's side, and its consequences for the teacher's well-being.

Supervisor: Doc. Mgr. Ing. Jozef Bavoľár, PhD.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: **Attitudes to uncertainty as determinants of burnout**

Abstract: Attitudes towards uncertainty (intolerance of uncertainty, intolerance of ambiguity) are reported in a number of studies as correlates of negative emotional states, especially anxiety. These emotional states can be a mediating factor, but also a consequence of burnout in the performance of the profession, but while the simple relationship of attitudes towards uncertainty and burnout was, at least to a small extent, investigated, time succession and a more detailed description of the process of the emergence of burnout (work exhaustion) taking into account the role of attitudes towards uncertainty represent a gap in current knowledge. The aim of the work is to examine the time sequence of the occurrence of overload and possible subsequent burnout syndrome, taking into account the role of attitudes towards uncertainty, related emotional states and striving for work goals.

Supervisor: Mgr. René Šebeňa, PhD. – univerzitný docent

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: Relationship between executive functions and health-related behaviors.

Abstract: The association between health-promoting behaviors, morbidity and mortality has long been a topic of interest to researchers. Initially, considerable research effort has focused on examining the determinants of health-promoting behaviors, with a focus on individual personality traits and behavior-specific cognitions. Recent research suggests that executive functions (EFs) could also play an important role in predicting the variability of health-related behaviors, which also in turn promote the maintenance of executive functions in old age.

Main aims:

The aim will be to explore the theoretical underpinnings and methodological issues of EFs in relation to health-related behaviours.

The aim will be to consider the ways in which EFs can be represented in selected models of health-related behaviour and then to test the selected model(s).

Supervisor: doc. PhDr. Beáta Ráczová, PhD.

Form of study: full-time study

1.

Topic: Personal goals of twenties in the context of identity formation during the transition to adulthood and their relations with subjective well-being.

Abstract: The transition to adulthood for young people (between the ages of 20 and 30) is mainly associated with the pursuit of several developmental goals. While societal expectations offer normative paths to adulthood, individuals' priorities (in terms of which goals they will consider personally important at a given time) may be different compared to them. In addition, the creation of a commitment to selected goals is linked to the formation of an adult's identity. A successful transition to adulthood is thus related to achieving goals and leads to experiencing satisfaction. The results of current research indicate an increase in difficulties in the transition to adulthood, which are reflected in a decrease in the subjective well-being of young people. The aim of the work is therefore to examine the content (and preferences) of the personal goals of twenties and their connection with the development of identity and their role in experiencing subjective well-being (indicators, e.g. the degree of burnout, overall life satisfaction, experiencing positive and negative emotions, self-esteem...).

Study programme: Social Psychology and Work Psychology – Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Slovak Academy of Sciences: Institute of Social Sciences

Supervisor: Mgr. Matúš Adamkovič, PhD.

Form of study: full-time and part-time study

1.

Topic: Possibilities for improvement of the quality of psychological research by using large language models

Abstract: Due to their wide-ranging capabilities, Large Language Models (LLMs) such as GPT are being progressively integrated into everyday life. LLMs offer a variety of possibilities that can significantly enhance and streamline virtually all stages of psychological research. These include synthesizing and classifying information, refining research design, assisting in information extraction, aiding data analysis, and presenting ideas in a more coherent manner. The aim of this dissertation is to explore the integration of LLMs into psychological research and meta-research, and to establish a pilot architecture for prompting systems. Furthermore, it will focus on developing prototype methods for

assessing the accuracy and utility of LLM usage. Additionally, the dissertation will examine the ethical implications and practical limitations associated with the use of AI.

2.

Topic: Advancing meta-research in qualitative approaches: Prospects in the fields of psychology

Abstract: Meta-research, or research on research, plays a vital role in enhancing the credibility of knowledge. In the field of psychology, its importance has been particularly emphasized in the context of quantitative studies, especially in tackling the replication crisis. Yet, meta-research methodologies within the qualitative framework have not received equivalent attention. Existing tools, such as meta-synthesis, lack the complexity and robustness found in their quantitative counterparts. This dissertation focuses on identifying and addressing these shortcomings in qualitative meta-research methodologies, with a special emphasis on psychology. It will seek to enhance these methods, drawing inspiration particularly from the quantitative domain. The anticipated outcome is the development of a comprehensive framework for a hybrid system of tools that will help merging quantitative and qualitative meta-research. This integration promises to open up new avenues for combining these methodologies and improving their mutual compatibility.

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