Master’s Diploma Thesis Assessment Report

Thesis Title: Options and Choices in Musical Film Lyrics Translation
Field of Study: English-language Translation
Author: Bc. Hana Mekinová
Reviewer: PhDr. Jarmila Fictumová

Reviewer’s recommendation for overall mark:

C – Good

The overall mark is based in part on the following assessments:

1. Evaluation of central idea, thesis, focus and purpose:
   B – Very Good

2. Evaluation of organization, logic and arrangement:
   C – Good

3. Evaluation of topic development, support and evidence:
   C – Good

4. Evaluation of language, style, standard usage, citation and bibliographic standards:
   F – Unacceptable

Comments and/or topics and questions for the thesis defence:

Ms Mekinova's thesis looks at various aspects of the translation of song lyrics in films / musicals. The theoretical part sets a broader framework by discussing audiovisual translation in general, including other media, such as opera translation, etc. Using Wikipedia for definitions of some of the terms is not appropriate, given the range of literature and other sources available.

A separate chapter is devoted to research. The method for the practical part is not mentioned there, only later in the following chapter: Translation and Music, namely the functional approach as described by Johan Franzon.

The practical part (despite some major problems) may be seen as the best part of the thesis. Two Czech musical films with English subtitles are analysed in detail, using the mentioned
criteria. Both lyrics and their translation are included in full in the Appendix. The discussed excerpts are part of the text. The conclusions are logical and well-structured.

Unfortunately, the language of the thesis is unacceptable. Not only does Ms Mekinova neglect basic grammar and punctuation rules, but there are also typos, too many references to herself in the first person (I), and inconsistencies (dash vs hyphen, p. 54: A night at Karlstejn vs pp. 56,58: Night at Karlstejn vs p. 67: Noc na Karlštejně vs. p. 70: Noc na karlštejně), etc. The standard of the language used in the thesis is its major drawback.

Suggestions for the defence:

a) Could you explain the reasons for the existence of typos, given the fact that you probably did use the spell checker: sang vs sung, deaf vs death, etc.?

b) Perhaps you could think of other sources in those cases when you used Wikipedia?

Brno, 31 January 2012

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Signature