Pázmány Péter Catholic University
Institute of English and American Studies

GUIDELINES TO THE BA THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

Several aspects of academic writing that linguists are accustomed to deviate from practices used in publications on literary/cultural topics (and consequently taught in *Essay writing* seminars) – please constantly consult your **supervisor** on this during your thesis-writing process.

Besides, the two most important points to bear in mind are the following:

- Keep the **deadlines** set by the Faculty/Institute and, above all, by your supervisor. It is your responsibility to leave some time for her/him to read and comment on your work, and keep in mind your supervisor has the right *not* to sign your ready-for-submission form.
- Make proper reference to all sources used, and avoid any appearance of **plagiarism**. Any standard form of **citation** is suitable as long as it is approved of by your supervisor and you use it *consistently*. Linguists usually prefer the Author-Date system of referencing in a style closest to APA (check out the Purdue OWL, http://www.apastyle.org/ or the CMS Quick Guide for help). **Footnotes** are not normally used for giving bibliographical information but rather for additional remarks and side issues, for which purpose their use is strongly encouraged.

Other formal requirements:

- The thesis is supposed to be cca. 10,000-12,000 words (cca. 30-40 pages) long, but the length heavily depends on your topic as well as the number of figures and tables included.
- The font is Times New Roman 12 pt (10 pt for footnotes), lines are fully justified, with standard page margins (2.5 cm/1 inch), and 1.5 spacing.
- Divide your thesis into a hierarchy of chapters, sections, and subsections (and subsubsections, etc.), and number them accordingly (e.g., 1.1, 2.3.1).

Parts of the thesis:

- statement on originality signed (download here)
- title page
- table of contents
- acknowledgements (if any)
- introduction
- discussion
- conclusion
- references
- appendices

Sample pages
For sample outer and inner covers, consult sections 8.1-8.2 of our sister Guidelines for Literary and Cultural Topics.

More info: http://btk.ppke.hu/karunkrol/intezetek-tanszekek/angol-amerikai-intezet/angol-nyelvu-irodalmak-es-kulturak-tanszeke/anglisztika-ba/nappali-kepzes/szakdolgozati-tajekoztato