



Everything about the BA Thesis

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Overview

- Prüfungsordnung, §11(3)
- Expectations (content)
- Approaching your task
- Form
 - Title Page,
 - Table of Contents, . . . ,
 - Bibliography
- Dale's part



Prüfungsordnung §11(3)

In einem der beiden Hauptseminare ist eine schriftliche Hausarbeit (Bakkalaureus-These) im Umfang von maximal 25 Seiten anzufertigen; die Arbeit soll zeigen, dass der Verfasser in der Lage ist, ein Problem aus dem Themenbereich des Hauptseminars selbstständig nach wissenschaftlichen Methoden zu bearbeiten und die gewonnenen Ergebnisse sachgerecht darzustellen.

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Expectations

- Comprehensive analysis of the chosen topic
- Stepwise and systematic development of your argumentation
- Proceed from questions and problems to complete answers
- Comprehensive and independent discussion of the relevant scientific literature

A BA thesis is a scientific paper that should comply with current scientific standards in form and content.



Approaching your BA Thesis

- Preliminary definition of the topic
- Literature
- Collect material and ideas
- Develop a preliminary structure of your thesis
- Work schedule



Form: Overview

- Title page
- Erklärung
- Table of contents
- Text (introduction, main part, conclusion)
- Bibliography
- Optional: Appendices (data, figures, code, proofs)



Form: Title Page

- Seminar: Title of seminar, instructor
- Topic
- Author: Name, address



Form: Erklärung

Hiermit versichere ich, dass ich die vorgelegte Arbeit selbstständig und nur mit den angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmitteln einschließlich des www und anderer elektronischer Quellen angefertigt habe. Alle Stellen der Arbeit, die ich anderen Werken dem Wortlaut oder dem Sinne nach entnommen habe, sind kenntlich gemacht.



Form: Table of Contents

- All chapter, section and subsection headings
- Page numbering

Headings: should be short but clear. If possible, they indicate the results of a section.



- Introduction
 - Exposition of the topic
 - Selection of material
 - Important aspects and structure of your thesis
- Main text
 - logically structured, structure of sections and subsections mirrors the structure of the argument



- Conclusion
 - independent part of your investigation
 - summarizes the main results
 - open problems
 - indicates possible further research



Form: Bibliography

- Alphabetical ordering
- Complete overview of the literature on your topic
- Purpose: reader should be in a position to find all your sources and to verify your claims
- Follow the example of a major linguistic journal
- Be precise and consistent



Form: Further Advice 1

- Summary of literature: use your own words, your own structure:
 - criticism
 - suggestions for improvement
- Number your example sentences
 - Numbering conventions
 - Glosses
 - Annotations in glosses
- Footnotes: as few as possible



Form: Further Advice 2

- Bibliographical references in the text:
comprehensive, and as precise as necessary
- AVMs and trees
- Referring to examples and figures by numbers
- Orthography and grammar
- Text formatting in Latex for Linguists:
www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics/clmt/latex4ling/
- Earlier successful theses:
www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/iscl/German/Thesen-de.shtml