

Writing the BA thesis

BA TOPIC FAIR

8 SEPTEMBER 2023

Why the BA thesis?

Writing the BA thesis gives you the opportunity to

- deepen your knowledge in the selected field of research: linguistics, literature or culture studies;
- familiarise yourself with the research methods in your field of research;
- develop your ability to formulate relevant research questions and independently collect and interpret information;
- further develop your practical skills in creating an academic text in English.

Learning outcomes

The student who has successfully completed and defended their thesis

- is familiar with the major theoretical principles and practical tips for writing an academic research paper in English;
- is able to find suitable sources for their research project and determine their credibility;
- in cooperation with their supervisor is able to formulate a research question, select a suitable methodology, conduct research, analyse and interpret the results;
- is able to write a well-argued academic text following the principles of Anglo-American writing;
- is able to present their research orally and answer questions on it.

Formal requirements

An **appropriately researched** and **structured** research paper written under the supervision of a member of the Department of English Studies

Length: 25–30 pages (without appendices)

Topic areas:

- **language studies** (aspects of the English language, contrasts with Estonian)
- **literary studies** (literatures written in English, translation to and from English)
- **cultural studies** (cultures of the English-speaking countries)

6 ECTS points (= 156 hours of work)

For detailed requirements see [Bakalaureusetöö kirjutajatele:](#)

- [Anglistika osakonna bakalaureusetööde nõuded](#)
- [BA Theses Guidelines](#).

Timeline

Olulised kuupäevad lõpetajatele

BA tööd

Topics agreed on with supervisors and entered into the relevant table – 31 October

Thesis draft ready to be shared with the reviewer – 16 April 2024

Reviewer's comments and suggestions – 23 April

Final version handed in for the defence – 21 May

Public defence of the theses – 4 & 5 June (tentative, check!)

An important reminder

You can defend your BA thesis only when you have completed your studies, that is you have taken all the courses in both your major and minor programmes.

Check at the beginning of your third year of studies what subjects you still need to take and make sure you take them.

Help available

The course *Ingliskeelsete uurimistööde kirjutamine/*
Writing up Research in English (HVLC.01.066)

Departmental website: [Bakalaureusetöö kirjutajatele](#)

Your supervisor!

Language and translation studies

Associate Professor Jane Klavan, PhD

General topic areas:

- Learner Corpus Research
- Grammatical and lexical variation
- Digital humanities
- The language of pop culture
- Statistical modelling of linguistic data

Students are expected to conduct empirical studies using corpus-linguistic and experimental methods.

More information: <https://sisu.ut.ee/janeklavan/supervision>

Contact: jane.klavan@ut.ee

Associate Professor Djuddah Leijen, PhD

Topic of Research: Rhetoric and Composition; Academic and Scientific Texts; Intercultural Text Production.

Lenses: culture / gender / discipline / genre / etc.

<http://BWRITE.ut.ee> / Research team – working with Roger Yallop, Helen Hint and Helena Lemendik, plus partners in Ireland, Sweden, UK, Norway, and Lithuania.

Some general ideas:

The use of Hedges or Boosters in Essays (Jonathan Bull)

Authorial Presence (THE USE OF FIRST PERSON PRONOUNS IN ACADEMIC TEXTS)

Stance, Voice, Agency of writers.

Other topics:

Storytelling in academic writing / argumentation / rhetoric

Conceptual - what is (academic) writing? why is (academic writing)? Is knowledge of writing transferrable (across languages) - NOW - what are the gains and losses of generative AI tools.

Djuddah Leijen

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Link to more topics and projects

<http://avok.ut.ee>

Lossi 3 Room 306

Lecturer Liina Tammekänd, PhD

Topic areas:

- Oral narratives and Labovian story grammar
- Narrative tenses in (oral) narratives
- Deixis and demonstration in narratives
- Different grammatical features of learner English

Contact: liina.tammekand@ut.ee

Lecturer Reeli Torn-Leesik, PhD

1. Studies on grammatical aspects of English:
 - contrastive analysis of a grammatical aspect of English and of another language (e.g. aspect in English and Estonian)
 - studies based on the Tartu Corpus of Estonian Learner English
 - translation based studies (case studies)
2. Studies on English phonetics:
 - realisation of English sounds (e.g. plosives, dental fricatives, vowels) by Estonian learners of English
 - English intonation in the speech of L2 learners
 - varieties of English
3. Language of sports commentaries
4. Studies on English lexicon (e.g. idioms and idiomatic expressions, collocations, etc.)

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Lecturer Katiliina Gielen, PhD (1)

Literary Translation

Contextualised comparative analysis of (a part of) a translation from Engl. into Est. or Est. into Engl. with a focus on a specific topic, E.g.:

- Translation realia
- Use of repertoires
- Explicitation techniques in translation
- Gender in translation
- ...

Poetry translation

- Confirming or rejecting the Norms
- Translation of imagery
- Translation for a specific ideological purpose, dissidence in translation (E.g. Dryden's translation of Homer during the Restoration period)
- ...

Lecturer Katiliina Gielen, PhD (2)

Theatre translation

Who translates; what, how and why is translated?

- Analysis of translations done from the English language during a certain time period in a certain professional Estonian theatre.

Cultural and linguistic transfer on scene (adaptations for a specific audience or a specific context)

- E.g. *Translations* by Brian Friel (1980) staged in Endla Theatre (transl. by O. Volmer/ J. Rähesoo 1984)

Contact: katiliina.gielen@ut.ee

Literary and culture studies

Professor Raili Marling, PhD

1. Modernist and contemporary American literature, esp. representations of gender
2. Literary representations of apocalypse, pandemics, economic or ecological crises
3. Media representations of crises (COVID-19, etc.)
4. Cultural representations of emotions, affect theory

Contact: raili.marling@ut.ee

Researcher Eret Talviste, PhD

1. modern and contemporary British (and to a lesser extent the US) literature, esp. women novelists
2. feminist and queer theories, gender studies
3. postcolonial studies
4. representations of emotions, embodied experience, affect studies
5. Posthuman theories (environment, materiality, nature, the non-human etc.)

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Lecturer Pilvi Rajamäe, PhD

Authors, themes from British literature

- Focus on ONE specific aspect in ONE literary text

Topics from the elective courses:

- Visions of Empire: The British Empire and the Arts
- Life in the English Country House

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Junior Lecturer Eva Rein, MA

Canadian Literature

Possible authors, texts, themes and approaches:

1. can be picked from the materials of the courses
 - “English-Canadian Multicultural Writing” (all the themes, issues and approaches addressed in the course; full texts of the extracts of the novels)
 - “Margaret Atwood: Texts, Contexts and Intertexts”
 - “Photography in Literature” (also other aspects besides photography can be explored in the course texts; full texts of the extracts of the novels)
 - “Personal and National Identity in English-Canadian Novel”
 - “Canadian Prairie Novel”
2. can be picked from the Canadian authors’ works you have had on your Text Analysis home reading list at the oral exam

Contact: eva.rein@ut.ee

Teacher Ülle Türk, MA

British and Irish cultures

- Research into various aspects of life and politics in the two countries based on the data available online
- Issues of identity
- Representation of various aspects of culture in the media, fiction and film

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Junior Lecturer Natalja Zagura, MA

Analysis of TEFL resources

- Analysis of electronic resources meant for learning and practicing English vocabulary and language structures or for developing learners' language skills (listening, reading, writing or speaking).
- Representation of the topics and competences outlined in the Estonian National Curricula; integration of language instruction with other school subjects.
- Analysis of the materials used at school for conducting English language competitions or thematic events.

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Any questions?

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