

Guidelines for MA theses

You can choose any topic you like, hard and soft linguistics, as long as you discuss the language that is used to convey a certain message to a specific readership/audience.

There are topic lists, models of complete theses and powerpoint presentations as inspiration on our www pages. The length of your thesis should be at least 50 pages, but not more than 100 (excluding appendices). In an introduction you should clearly state the relevance of the topic and your special perspective. This must be followed by a special section on methodology, how you select the texts and informants and how you intent to analyse and interpret them.

The (scholarliness) of your presentation will be evaluated according to formal style (cf. our style sheet) and the argumentation, which combines your own ideas with the work of other scholars.

Do not copy from other sources (in particular the internet) without referring to them, since you may be held responsible for other peoples' errors. We also expect you to go through your thesis again towards the end / or better ask a good friend who knows something from own experience about academic style to go through your work critically with you.

Generally, it is better to concentrate on the core of your thesis when writing too much. Normally it takes several weeks to write a one page summary and to find the relevant literature. For finalising a topic it is generally enough to have a basis outline and bibliography of two pages or a model you want to follow. Send those to us and come for a detailed discussion, so that you can include the advice before registering a topic.