

**Faculty of Arts  
University of Prešov**

**Topics of dissertation supervisors in accredited study programmes  
of the 3rd degree of study (doctoral studies)  
for the academic year 2026/2027**

**Študijný odbor: filológia**

**Študijný program: anglický jazyk a anglofónne kultúry (jazyk poskytovania štúdia slovenský a anglický)**

**Študijný program: English Language and Anglophone Cultures (jazyk poskytovania štúdia anglický)**

**Osoba zodpovedná za študijný program: prof. PhDr. Milan Ferenčík, PhD.**

**doc. PhDr. Klaudia Bednárová-Gibová, PhD.** ([klaudia.gibova@unipo.sk](mailto:klaudia.gibova@unipo.sk))

**1. Digitálny a postdigitálny preklad v súčasnom prekladateľskom priemysle**

*Digital and Post-digital Translation in the Contemporary Translation Industry*

This PhD. thesis seeks to explore the impact of digital technologies including neural machine translation, post-editing and AI on translation products and current translation practices, addressing hot issues of sustainability, accessibility and employability in the contemporary Slovak translation industry. How do professionals in various roles (from CEOs, translation product managers to translators) view the evolving translation market? To what degree is the growing automation of the translation profession compatible with the economic sustainability of the translation industry? How does digital translation influence translation agents to remain in the profession or to leave the translation industry? etc. Aspiring to contribute to the sociology of translation and translators, the research should outline how the contemporary training of language professionals should be updated to keep up with the ever-increasing digitalisation of translation.

**2. Renarácia a jej funkcie v rámci intersemiotického prekladu**

*Exploring Re-narrations and their Functions within Intersemiotic Translation*

The dissertation draws on the concept of intersemiotic translation and its contemporary interpretation in the context of the post-translation studies turn. Intersemiotic translation can be regarded as part of cultural translation because of its connections with cultural artefacts. The thesis explores cultural affinities and dissonances between translations and film/theatre versions of selected literary works as re-narrations of cultures at the micro-, macro-, and transtextual levels. It aspires to examine the extent to which the relationship between translation and film/theatre adaptation in intercultural communication can be considered a form of rewriting or a specific discursive-semiotic act. From a theoretical and methodological perspective, the thesis builds upon inter- and transdisciplinary approaches drawn from discourse analysis, semiotics, translation studies, and film/theatre studies.

### **3. Hodnotenie kvality prekladu súčasných neurónových systémov strojového prekladu** *Evaluating the Translation Quality of Contemporary Neural Machine Translation Systems*

The PhD. thesis focuses on the evaluation of translation quality produced by contemporary neural machine translation (NMT) systems (e.g., Lara, ChatGPT, DeepL, eTranslation etc.) in the context of the ongoing technological turn in translation studies. Translation quality is examined as a complex construct involving linguistic, functional and pragmatic dimensions as well as user-oriented criteria. The thesis explores the extent to which NMT output meets the required standards of translation quality across selected text types and communicative situations, with special attention paid to error typologies, adequacy, fluency and usability in professional translation workflows. It seeks to address the relationship between human translation quality assessment, automatic evaluation metrics and post-editing effort, and to determine their mutual compatibility and limitations. The research draws on approaches from translation quality assessment (TQA) and corpus-based translation studies.

**prof. PhDr. Milan Ferencík, PhD.** ([milan.ferencik@unipo.sk](mailto:milan.ferencik@unipo.sk))

#### **1. Interpersonálna pragmatika vo verejnom priestore**

*The Interpersonal Pragmatics in Public Space*

The thesis explores the potential of public space for pragmatological research by focusing on how actors of semiotic processes actualize the interpersonal function of language to enact their private or institutional roles and which semiotic resources they use to do so. The theoretical-methodological foundations are geosemiotics, linguistic landscape studies, sociolinguistics (English as a lingua franca) and interpersonal pragmatics (politeness theory). Its comparative linguacultural dimension is ensured by collecting, analysing and interpreting multimodal and multilingual data compiled in public space of the world's settlements.

#### **2. Jazyková krajina ako ekologický priestor**

*Linguistic landscapes as an ecological space*

Wherever it occurs, linguistic landscape indicates that a particular physical space is also social space which represents a nexus of various historical, social, political and economic processes. Along with other modalities of meaning-making, the visual presence of language indexes a specific place as emerging from the deployment, negotiation and contestation of values, norms and ideologies pertinent to various actors participating in its semiotic construction. The thesis approaches linguistic landscape from an ecolinguistic perspective, conceptualizing public signage as part of an ecological assemblage in which semiotic, material, social, and environmental processes interact and foregrounding relationships between language, ideology, and the ecological well-being of humans. The theoretical-methodological approaches are linguistic landscape studies, geosemiotics, sociolinguistics (of globalization), multimodality, critical stylistics, ecolinguistics and ecopragma(linguis)tics. This research brings these fields together to investigate how public signs shape, normalize, or challenge stories about human-environment relations.

**doc. PhDr. Miroslava Gavurová, PhD.** ([miroslava.gavurova@unipo.sk](mailto:miroslava.gavurova@unipo.sk))

#### **1. Preklad intertextových alúzií v esejoch**

*Translation of intertextual allusions in essays*

The essay, as a specific genre of socio-scientific character, increases demands on the translator's extralinguistic knowledge and his ability to identify intertextual allusions and references. The thesis addresses the question of how translators should transform them into the target text. Can they rely only on an informed and textually experienced target reader, or must they also incorporate into the translation explicative elements that were not necessary in the source text, given the reader's experience?

**prof. Mgr. Martina Ivanová, PhD.** ([martina.ivanova@unipo.sk](mailto:martina.ivanova@unipo.sk))

### **1. Kontrastívna analýza diskurzívnych markerov v slovenčine a angličtine** *Contrastive Analysis of Discourse Markers in Slovak and English*

The thesis will be focused on the semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic aspects of discursive markers in Slovak and English. From methodological point of view, the thesis will be based on a parallel Slovak-English corpus. The aim of the thesis will be to describe the so-called translation paradigms of translation equivalents and to capture the semantic changes they undergo in translation process, to describe the syntactic aspects of the process of so-called pragmatic reinforcement, and to characterize the pragmatic/interactional and textual/discursive aspects of these equivalents.

**prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Kušnír, PhD.** ([jaroslav.kusnir@unipo.sk](mailto:jaroslav.kusnir@unipo.sk))

### **1. Literatúra a rapová hudba: Próza Ricarda Corteza Cruza a Colsona Whitheada** *Literature and Rap Music: Ricardo Cortez Cruz's and Colson Whitehead's Fiction*

In the past decades, rap music and hip-hop culture has significantly contributed not only to the change of understanding of the function of subcultures in the contemporary world and in the context of popular culture, but according to such critics as Daniel Grassian, there is a generation of especially Afro-American authors who depict a sensibility of rap music and hip culture in their literary works, especially after 1980's. This thesis will give a comparative analysis of select fiction of both Cruz and Whitehead and the way they depict not only cultural atmosphere influenced by the rap music and hip-hop culture, but also subversive and other roles of rap music in the context of both contemporary American culture and in popular culture.

### **2. Kultúrna identita v próze Briana Castra** *Cultural Identity in Brian Castro's Fiction*

Brian Castro is a contemporary Australian author of a mixed cultural background which also manifests itself in his depiction of cultural background and identity of his characters. This thesis will explore Brian Castro's depiction of cultural identity in the context of various cultural theories (Stuart Hall, Frantz Fanon, H. Bhabha, etc.). In addition, the thesis will analyze the function of both Australian and other cultural identities in Castro's understanding of contemporary cultural space as depicted in his novels such as *Garden Book*, *Bach Fugues*, and *Shanghai Dancing*.

### **3. Postava "trickstera" a kultúra amerického pôvodného obyvateľstva v prozaickej tvorbe L. Erdrichovej a Lindy Hoganovej** *Trickster Figure and Native American Culture in L. Erdrich's and L. Hogan's Fiction*

The trickster figure represent an important aspect of Native American cultural tradition and he/she appears in various forms in contemporary Native American authors' fiction. This figure often represents both a specificity of Native American culture and a resistance to the western culture understanding of time and space. This thesis will analyse select fiction of contemporary Native American authors such as L. Erdrich, L.M. Silko, G. Vizenor and L. Hogan and the way they use both the figure of a trickster and other forms of Native American culture (myth, performativity, rituals, etc.) to point out the position of Native American culture in contemporary American society.

#### **4. Umelá inteligencia a autorstvo**

##### *Artificial Intelligence and Authorship*

This dissertation examines the issue of artificial intelligence and its creativity within the context of the philosophy of art and aesthetics, with a particular focus on the concepts of authorship, identity, and individual style. The starting point of the research is the question of whether authorship can be attributed to artificial intelligence and whether generative language models represent a fundamental break with traditional understandings of the creative subject. The dissertation asks to what extent it is possible to speak of the replacement of the author by artificial intelligence, or rather of a transformation of the very concept of the author under conditions of algorithmic creation. The text is grounded in a critical analysis of classical and contemporary theories of authorship and creativity (e.g., Barthes, Foucault, Benjamin) and confronts them with the functioning of generative language models, which produce texts based on prompts and probabilistic patterns. Particular attention is devoted to the notion of the "authorial signature" as an aesthetic and interpretative category, and to the question of whether forms of individual style can be identified in machine-generated works that lack intentionality, experience, and self-awareness in the traditional philosophical sense. The aim of the dissertation is to demonstrate that artificial intelligence does not constitute an autonomous author, but rather destabilizes the boundaries between author, tool, and reader, thereby opening up new ways of thinking about the origin of meaning, originality, and the aesthetic value of the artwork. The dissertation thus contributes to the broader discussion of posthuman authorship, aesthetics, and the ethics of authorship.

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#### **1. Syntaktické stratégie v anglickom akademickom propagačnom diskurze: Korpusová štúdia univerzitného brandingu**

##### *Syntactic Strategies in English Academic Promotional Discourse: A Corpus-Based Study of University Branding*

This dissertation looks at how sentence structure is used in English university promotional texts aimed at international students. It focuses on programme descriptions and recruitment pages and examines how universities use shorter or more complex sentences, clause structure, and simple persuasive elements to present themselves as attractive and credible. The study is based on a corpus of real promotional texts from selected universities and combines quantitative and qualitative analysis. The aim is to show how English syntax is adapted for academic promotion and to offer practical insights for institutions that communicate in English as a foreign language.