

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Pavla Tomášková
 Title: Teaching English through conversation lessons in upper primary
 Length: 72 pages
 Text Length: 53 pages

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the problem. It places the problem in context. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. Literature review is comprehensive and complete. It synthesizes a variety of sources and provides context for the research. It shows the author's understanding of the most relevant literature on the subject matter.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>I appreciate the narrow focus of the literature review. The author stays focused and explores specifics of the topics in communication. At the same time, I believe the author could have addresses the characteristics of the age group that is further discussed in the project. I believe teenagers are a unique group of language learners with specific needs that impact language learning. Unfortunately, the author doesn't recognize this in her thesis and mostly approaches the subject matter from a general perspective.</i>
3. The methodology chapter provides clear and thorough description of the research methodology. It discusses why and what methods were chosen for research. The research methodology is appropriate for the identified research questions.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>Although the research is well described and one understands how the author collected her data, I find a few puzzling areas. First, I wonder why the author selected only one teacher for the interview for the value of such data is very low. Maybe doing some class observations could have been much more valuable with respect to the research questions. Second, I miss any demographic information about the respondents.</i>
4. The results/data are analyzed and interpreted effectively. The chapter ties the theory with the findings. It addresses the applications and implications of the research. It	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>The author dedicates a lot of space to the discussion of the findings yet the consequent implications for teaching based on the research are rather limited. It seems to me that the findings</i>

discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.		
5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>are mostly restated and commented on rather than direct implications for teaching are presented.</i>
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author demonstrates high quality writing skills and uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
7. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Tomášková shows her ability to choose a topic, successfully identify and review relevant literature, and conduct research that would provide her with insights into language teaching practices. Due to the research questions (content and goals), it may be in question to what extend the presented research is of benefit beyond providing a summary of some trends in conversational classes. In other words, it seems to me the research informs about facts without providing data that could inspire and lead to effective language instruction. However, it is obvious that the thesis positively contributed to Ms. Tomášková's education and growth as a language teaching professional. Her expertise in the subject matter of communication skills is apparent in the thesis.

I would like the author to address the following questions during her defense:

- Why do you believe conversation classes are important? Doesn't the curriculum outline competences in all four language skills?
- You stress the role of native speakers in conversation classes. Can you explain your rationale behind this belief?
- What did you find the most beneficial about the project and why?

I suggest that the author is awarded the grade "very good" for her thesis project.

Reviewer: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: May 5, 2014

Signature: 