

**Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology)**  
**Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia**

Thesis Author: **Petra KOTENOVÁ**

Title: **USING SONGS AND RHYMES TO HELP LEARNERS OF ENGLISH WITH  
CONNECTED SPEECH**

Length: 55

Text Length: 44

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The Introduction chapter contains the research goal and a chapter by chapter outline of the work in its entirety.
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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The review demonstrates a great deal of relevant research and investigation. The author presents the information in a logical, very understandable manner. However, it is still not obvious which age group is researched and she mostly approaches the subject matter from a general perspective.
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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author provides background information on her research and explains when, where and how the research was carried out, and who its subjects were. On p. 19 the author describes how the data were collected through "indirect testing" and on pp. 20, 21, and 22 describes "criteria". However, I have my doubts about the value of collected data. I think that in most cases it seems like only a passive recognition of the measured pronunciation feature and no proof of pupils' ability to produce it.
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 discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author presents her findings in an organized manner using visual support such as graphs and tables to supplement her text. The chapter is well organized and the summaries of the major findings at the end of this chapter give readers better awareness of the results.

5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	Outstanding <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Overall, this work is well-conceived, carefully researched and clearly written.
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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Technically speaking, in general the work conforms to the format required apart from not a proper use of different headings' levels. Also "Zadání" is placed on the wrong page.

#### Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Koteňová's thesis provides useful theoretical and practical insights into using rhymes/songs/chants when improving pupils' pronunciation in language teaching even though some flaws can be identified as stated above. I particularly appreciate the fact that she conducted several classes to get some data. In summary, I believe that this project positively contributed to her professional development.

In my opinion this is an **excellent/very good** piece of academic writing - depending on the author's performance in the "defence".

#### QUESTIONS:

Could you briefly describe the procedure of teaching pronunciation (in general)?

What are the main factors teachers have to take into consideration when choosing songs or rhymes for their pupils?

What have you gained personally from doing this research?

Supervisor: Mgr. Danuše Hurtová

Date: 7 May 2014

Signature: 