

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology)

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Hana BEČVÁŘOVÁ

Title: USE OF POPULAR BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS TO DEVELOP SPEAKING SKILLS

Length: 70

Text Length: 53

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
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	The Introductory Chapter sets the research goals and contains a chapter by chapter outline.
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	The author reviews relevant resources of ideas associated with using literature in language classes and teaching speaking. However, these two areas seem to be discussed separately. One would expect them to be more interconnected. Moreover, no pedagogical or psychological aspects about the researched age group are provided. In spite of this, a sufficient theoretical framework for the future research is provided.
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	The author provides background information on her research and explains how the research was carried out, and who its subjects were. Even though the questionnaires seem to be a well-chosen research tool, I am sure that the follow-up experiment (using literary texts in the English classroom to develop speaking skills) would bring more valuable data. Moreover, using questionnaire 2 can be in question because the author does not use its results and decides to analyse only some used course books. Also the criteria on the course book analysis are not included here but in Chapter iv.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p>The author presents her findings in an organized manner using visual support such as graphs to supplement her text. However, I am afraid that her findings answer only two of the set research questions. I have my doubts about her statement that literature can be used to develop speaking skill. How reliable are students' answers to two questions (Q8, Q9) in the questionnaire?</p>
<p>5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p>I particularly like the way in which, at the beginning of each chapter, there is a guide as to the chapter's contents. The chapters are on the whole rounded off as well. There are some misprints and mistakes (e.g. forming questions in present simple – p. 24 <i>Contain mostly used textbooks reading texts...?</i>; p. 48 <i>What you usually do ...? When you firstly appear ...?</i>) Fortunately they do not interfere with the message the author is attempting to communicate.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p>Technically speaking, in general the work conforms to the format required. Only in Chapter III the headings do not follow the APA format and the CD is not included.</p>

Final Comments & Questions

In summary, Ms. Bečvářová has conducted a very interesting research (with a bit wider focus). In spite of my objections, this thesis shows her researching abilities and her willingness to explore an area that interests her personally. I believe that this project positively contributed to her professional development.

QUESTIONS

Could you summarize the main reasons why and how teachers should use literary texts in their English classes to develop speaking skills?

What have you gained professionally from doing this research?

Were there any obstacles you had to overcome? If so, which were the most difficult ones?

I suggest that the author is awarded the grade "very good" – "good", depending on the oral defence.

Reviewer: Mgr. Danuše Hurtová

Date: 5th August, 2016

Signature:

