

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Eliška Vaničková

Title: English language teaching and learning at selected democratic schools

Length: 53

Text Length: 48

<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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below
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.	<u>Outstanding</u> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See below

Final Comments & Questions

The topic of the work is extremely interesting to me, as in my own practice I have always been looking for the balance between the compulsory systematic traditional teaching on the one hand, and the space for the students to express themselves spontaneously, on the other.

The concept of democratic schooling is, in my opinion, less applicable in the Czech Republic at the moment; it would definitely need a lot of time to create conditions for such attitude. Nevertheless, it is useful to get to know about it, and see it as an existing alternative which has already been used somewhere. For this reason, I appreciate the author's choice of place of research – the schools where this approach is currently applied. This makes the thesis even more attractive.

The author clearly introduces the necessary terms and concepts in the Theoretical background. Her language is marked by accessibility and simplicity (in the good sense of the word). Her descriptions of the principles and typical attributes of democratic schools, including historical references, are lively but brief at the same time, the text is dynamic and interesting. It contains a vast amount of information, some of which are really interesting, e.g. the way of adjustment to the concept by different types of students who join the democratic school later, having been educated traditionally before. I also highly appreciate the survey of and rich information on existing schools of this type.

The Method chapter is very well-written, it clearly introduces the set of research questions, which are focused on teaching English. Again (as it applies to the whole work), the way of the author's thinking, in which simplicity unites with the ability to go to the essence of the subject matter, makes the work really readable and attractive.

The chapter on results is written in an interesting, understandable and transparent way. This chapter represents the most important content of the work – the answers to the research questions. I like the clear organisation of the chapter, each of the research questions is specifically and fully answered.

The whole work is very carefully written; the language is clear and correct, stylistically on a high level.

I am convinced that it represents a great contribution to the general awareness of this specific type of schooling, including the implications for our practice.

The individual chapters are well-framed – introduced as well as concluded, which makes the thesis well organized.

This diploma work shows the author's involvement, great effort and responsible approach. It deserves the evaluation "excellent".

Supervisor/Reviewer: PhDr. Naděžda Stašková, PhD.

Date: 8.6.2017

Signature:

