

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

Thesis Author: Oxana Dzugkoeva
 Title: Developing language teaching materials: A usability testing study
 Length: 44 pages
 Text Length: 46 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>The chapter is well focused. The author presents all the necessary background information on the subject matter to ground her research in and also be later able to discuss the findings in contrast with theory.</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>It would have been beneficial to include sample pages from the tested textbook in the thesis.</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 discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>The chapter offers a detailed analysis of the usability test and the author makes very valid comments about the design issues of the teaching material.</i>
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>The critical and analytical thinking is apparent throughout the whole thesis; however, the author demonstrates this extremely well in the research section of her thesis as she thoroughly analyzes the results of the usability testing and makes sound remarks regarding the findings.</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. Dzugkoeva writes a clearly focused thesis with a clear research goal. She successfully brings together two areas – language teaching textbooks and usability testing - and conducts a useful and interesting study in how how visual design supports textbook navigation. It is obvious that Ms. Dzugkoeva has developed good knowledge and skills in usability testing and would be able to use her expertise in other textbook projects if needed.

I suggest that the author is awarded the grade “excellent” for her thesis project.

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

