

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

Thesis Author: Tomáš Baloun  
 Title: Using technology to improve students' speaking skills  
 Length: 51 pages  
 Text Length: 41 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 author covers a number of issues that are connected to the topic of the thesis yet not of any immediate relevance (e.g. pp. 13-17). The theory section on technology could have been more narrow and stay within the topic of technology and speaking skills..</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	
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	
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	
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy	Outstanding Very good	

to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author demonstrates high quality writing skills and uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	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

Mr. Baloun conducted a close examination of issues around developing learners' speaking skills with the use of technology. He shows a lot of enthusiasm about the topic of his thesis and expertise in teaching speaking skills and the role of technology in language teaching. It is obvious that the author invested a lot of time and energy into the project.

The results make the reader think about the examined subject matter and consider technology tools for language learning – teaching speaking skills inside and outside a class. Even though the thesis bears some limitations as pointed out above, the work has, without any question, positively contributed to Mr. Baloun's understanding of the subject matter and raises valuable questions around qualities and features of speaking apps and their use with language learners.

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

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: August 29, 2022

Signature: