

## Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Dagmar Kozlová

Title: Scaffolding speaking in young learner classes

Length: 42 pages

Text Length: 33 pages

<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 Very good <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>The author does not clearly specify why she chose the topic.</i>
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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The literature review provides a context for the research but needs to be more in-depth. Unfortunately, some terms are not explained (e.g., C-wheel).</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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The choice of action research in the methodology chapter is not adequately explained and justified. Also, the chapter does not include any research question (s).</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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The data analysis is very vague. The students could have described the findings in more detail. The implications of the research could be more specific.</i>
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	

<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  <b>Very good</b>  Acceptable  Somewhat deficient  Very deficient</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  <b>Acceptable</b>  Somewhat deficient  Very deficient</p>	

#### Final Comments & Questions

The "Scaffolding Speaking in Young Learners Classes" thesis offers a valuable exploration into the practices that foster speaking production among young learners. However, the theoretical part needs more depth and could benefit from a more comprehensive exploration of existing literature and theories related to the topic in the ELT setting. The methodology section introduces action research as its primary method, but the explanations and justifications for this choice still need to be developed.

That said, the activities designed for young learners in the classroom setting are commendable, exhibiting practical understanding and creativity. The reflection section of the thesis appears superficial. It could benefit from more profound insights and analysis, especially regarding the outcomes of the implemented activities and the observed changes in students' speaking abilities.

On a positive note, Ms. Kozlova showcased her enthusiasm for working with young learners, and the activities she used during the research could inspire other educators.

Suggested grade: 2-3

#### Questions:

1. What were the research questions of the research?
2. Why did you select action research over other research methods?
3. How has the research study influenced your perspective on teaching speaking to young learners?

Reviewer: Mgr. Tereza Havránková, Ph.D.

Date: August 28, 2023

Signature: