

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

Thesis Author: **Gabriela Hájková**

Title: **Growing up Bilingual: How do Bilingual Children Acquire Languages?**

Length: 54 pages

Text Length: 50 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 examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The Introduction is indeed interesting but to a considerable extent for the wrong reasons: the opening sentence evidently does not express what the author has in mind; the second sentence makes the work seem far more grandiose than it actually proves to be.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author provides a straightforward description of the data gathered via the questionnaires but the analysis is somewhat shallow.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See previous comment.
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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 uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There are some minor problems, such as <i>boarders are open</i> (p. 3) or <i>no problem into understanding</i> (p. 19). The <i>forth</i> [sic] type referred to at the bottom of p. 13 should presumably read 'fifth type'.
7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	On several occasions the writer lapses into informality and seems to be offering too personal a view. In addition to this, the style is sometimes too staccato and would have benefited from more effective use of linking devices.
8. 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

Comments

- p. 3 contains a confusing reference to parents in a family without children. In fact, given the surrounding content, this particular paragraph could have been omitted altogether to no great detriment.
- As pointed out on p. 6 monolingualism actually represents a minority group; bi- or even multi-lingualism is more the norm. As such, the author's repeated adulation of bilingual offspring as "children of happiness" seems slightly over-exuberant, the more so since not all bilinguals themselves see things this way – if, indeed, they spend any time reflecting on this matter at all: for many of those not actively involved in linguistics or cultural studies as part of their livelihood, their two (or more) languages are merely an effective means of communication – nothing more.

Question

On p. 6 the author states that *bilingualism is often considered as a hallmark of the upper classes*. Where exactly and by whom?

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 20th August 2012

Signature:

