

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

Thesis Author: Jana Mikošáková
 Title: The use of interactive whiteboards for vocabulary practice in English lessons in the fourth grade at the primary school
 Length: 69 pages
 Text length: 56 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>I appreciate the author's narrow focus of the chapter. She does not go off on a tangent and discusses mainly core issues relevant to her subject matter (teaching vocabulary). The chapter is well focused and provides a firm base for the author's research. I only question a bit the relevance of the section outlining types of IWBs and characteristics of SMART Boards</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>The chapter as it stands is very well written and provides an explicit description of the research. My minor objection has to do with the design of the tests the author used in her research. For example, Task 4 in the first test doesn't really test new knowledge. The answers are written above and students can only copy the words. Also the matching and gap fill activities don't have any distracters. I understand that the author primarily explored the issues of teaching vocabulary and didn't have time to examine principles of good tests, but I suggest that principles of effective tests are further explored by the author.</i>
4. The results/data are analyzed and interpreted effectively. The chapter ties the theory with the findings. It addresses the applications and	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	<i>The author presents and discusses her findings in a clear and organized manner. The graphs are effectively used and support the author's text.</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	
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	<i>The author uses direct quotes in cases when she translated text from English texts. I believe in case of translation the text in the quotation marks is not a direct quote for it cannot be located in the text and other forms of referencing should be used.</i>

Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Mikošáková writes a clearly focused thesis on teaching and practicing vocabulary with the use of IWBs. Although the findings of students' improvement of their vocabulary knowledge after some practice are not of a big surprise, it allowed the author to closely look at what's and how's of vocabulary practice with IWB's tools and identify those that are preferred by fourth graders. I believe that this project has provided the author with good insights into language teaching and positively contributed to her overall professional development that is so needed for successful classroom instruction.

I would like the author to address the following questions during her defense:

1. What do you mean by the term "recove dovednostri" that you use frequently in your thesis (e.g. p. 20)?
2. Why did you divide the analysis of the data by gender (boys and girls)?
3. What does it mean to know a word in a foreign language? Do you truly believe that IWBs are a useful tool for students to learn new vocabulary?

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

Reviewer: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: May 18, 2016

Signature:

