

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology, Linguistics)
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Michaela Bečvářová
 Title: Visual Art as an English Language Teaching Tool
 Length: 64
 Text Length: 40

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
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	While I was impressed by the range of material in the theoretical section, I felt that it was merely an overview of the development of media technology in the twentieth century and thus had little connection with the main research task of the thesis. Could the student thus explain why she felt it necessary to present this, rather than, say, an overview of the use of classroom technology in Czechia since 1989?
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	I wonder if the student, before embarking on this research, should not have investigated the tech equipment in the school. As the thesis progresses, this becomes the main story, and it also compromises the reliability of the data collected, thus making it difficult to draw proper conclusions.
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	Although the standard is in general good, there are small errors of phrasing throughout.
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

At the beginning of the thesis the student quotes Marshall McLuhan's statement that the medium is the message. This was provocative at the time, and it still provokes now. It struck me that the student might have explored its implications more in the course of the thesis. In what way does the emergence of technology change the nature of English, and the methods of its acquisition? Moreover, technology is present in a particular institutional context in Czechia, where there are high expectations of the new horizons that electronic devices open up, but low effectivity in practice. This was poignantly captured in the thesis narrative, as the student encountered reluctance among teachers and resentment even from the school's tech admin. Thus, following McLuhan, we realize that technology's message in such a situation is always one of disappointment (which is reflected in other theses which have dealt with this area of methodology). Perhaps before such new methodologies can be explored, what must first be examined is the correspondence (or lack thereof) between government policy, schools' self-presentation (the student notes that this is a new school which is considered well-equipped), and classroom reality.

A further question for the student: why was it methodologically important to use gender in the analysis of the results? I could find no justification for this parameter within the text.

I recommend the grade of **2 – velmi dobře.**

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 15 August 2015

Signature:

