

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

Thesis Author: **Lukáš GOTTFRIED**

Title: Music/Songs as a Motivating Factor for Pupils to Learn English

Length: 60

Text Length: 51

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	<i>The author introduces the focus of his research and provides detailed overview of some chapters – theoretical background, research (method chapter) and conclusion). The result chapter has been omitted. Also the specification of the age of students is a little vague – it says grade 1 and 2. Does the author really mean children aged 6 – 8? I think he means school stages – primary and upper primary.</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 Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>The author presents a thorough review of the background brings a range of ideas associated with reading and provide a good theoretical framework for his future research. The quoted information presented is effectively commented on. However, I cannot find the resource of the ideas presented in the subchapters called Motivation in the Classroom (pp 8, 9) and in No-tones activities – Project on pp 15 and 16. Although the individual subchapters are very well concluded, the whole chapter is not concluded at all.</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 author provides background information on his research and explains when, where and how the research was carried out, and who its subjects were. I have my doubts about the validity of the chosen age of students (8 – 16) when trying to find the motivation factors. I think that there are big differences in many areas (e.g. cognition, psychology, knowledge) between these age groups. Also the stated reference/link to the questionnaires presented in the Appendices and numbered questions would help the reader a lot.</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 Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>Although the presentation of the findings is clear, well organized and effectively supported with graphs and table, numbered questions in the questionnaires would make it easier to read.</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	<i>This is mostly demonstrated in the implication section of the thesis in which the author comments on the findings.</i>
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	<i>In general, the work is logically organised and well sign-posted. The chapters could have been supported with clear concluding remarks on the presented content - the same way as the individual subchapters in the background chapter are.</i>
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. Gottfried's thesis provides useful theoretical and practical insights into using music/songs in language teaching even though some flaws can be identified as stated above. In sum, I believe that this project positively contributed to Mr. Gottfried's professional development. In my opinion this is a very good piece of academic writing.

QUESTIONS:


What have you gained personally from doing this research?

Were there any obstacles you had to overcome? If so, which were the most difficult ones?

Page 8 - you say: ...better results are achieved by intrinsic motivation and then you jumped into quite a detail description of factors influencing the extrinsic motivation. Why?

Reviewer: Mgr. Danuše Hurtová

Date: 18 May, 2012

Signature: 

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