

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology)

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

Thesis Author: Olga Procházková

Title: Using drama techniques to develop primary pupils' speaking skills in English

Length: 121 pages

Text Length: 60 pages

<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	<i>The first part of the thesis provides introduction to the rest of the project. The author could have been a bit more explicit to engage the reader in the topic of the project; however, in general, the introduction serves its purpose. Also, the author could have discussed or referred some to the quote at the beginning of the section.</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>In this section, the author addresses a wide range of issues; however, it seems to me that the review is rather broad than deep in relation to the researched area. For example, the text on pp.2-13 describing communication is interesting yet not directly linked to the development of speaking skills in language classes. It would have been much better to examine issues related to the development of speaking skills of young learners and teaching strategies specific to the age group.</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	
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>There is no connection between the results and the theory made. Also, I am not sure that results from all groups could have been put together for each group had very specific conditions and characteristics. In other words, by merging all the data, the author got results that had no value for the sources of the data are very different.</i>

<p>5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p><i>This is mostly demonstrated in the implication section of the thesis in which the author comments on the findings.</i></p>
<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 Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	<p><i>The author could have used fewer direct quotes. For example, the texts on pp. 5-6, 17, 19, 25 consist primarily of direct quotes.</i></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 Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	

Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Procházková conducted interesting research into the use of selected drama techniques with young learners. It could be questioned to what extent the carried out research really verified how effective the activities were. It seems to me that the only thing that the author was able to examine was the involvement of the students and their likes of particular activities and no conclusions about the benefits of the activities can be really drawn from this. In addition, as the author admits herself, the role of the teachers in how the activities were done and the language level of students are important in the realization process of the activities. For these reasons, I am not sure whether the results across the different groups can be compared. In my opinion, the author's desire to prove the benefits of the activities could not have been realized through the research that was done yet I believe that the research has positively contributed to Ms. Procházková's understanding of the subject matter and has allowed her to develop certain professional knowledge and skills.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: May 19, 2012

Signature:



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