

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

Thesis Author: Barbora Lenková

Title: Native Americans in Teaching Materials – Stereotype versus Reality

Length: 64 pages

Text Length: 40 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	<i>The author writes a brief introduction providing an overview of the thesis yet the focus of the actual research isn't explicitly mentioned. The reader can only speculate about the focus based on the issues mentioned in the introduction.</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>I find this section of the thesis very interesting and engaging. The author explores the key areas of stereotypes and provides a basic framework for the research presented in the second half of the thesis. It might be seen as slightly problematic that the author uses one main source/reference for certain sections of the chapter though, e.g. citing mostly Brown in the section on stereotypes of Native Americans. Yet, it should be recognized that the topic of the thesis is not among the widely common ones and resources available on the topic in the Czech Republic are limited.</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>The presentation of the findings and commentaries are well put together. I appreciate that the author uses secondary sources to support her comments (e.g.p.31). Maybe the author could have dedicated a few more paragraphs to implications of the findings to teaching.</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>The critical and analytical thinking is apparent throughout the whole thesis. In fact, the topic and the research questions themselves couldn't have been identified if the author hadn't had the capacity to think critically.</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	
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

The thesis clearly shows that Ms. Lenková has gained a lot of expertise and experience regarding stereotypes and issues associated with stereotypes in teaching materials. It presents mind stimulating and useful ideas. Ms. Lenková's research shows that there might still be limits to how Native Americans are treated in language teaching materials and it encourages readers to think about their own teaching practices when using these materials. In fact, her research shows the importance of examining how different topics are presented in ELT materials (and not only) and the need to provide additional information to students if stereotypes occur.

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: August 12, 2012

Signature: