

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

Thesis Author: Miroslava Voláková  
 Title: DESIGN ISSUES IN LANGUAGE TESTING MATERIALS  
 Length: 81pp  
 Text Length: 43pp

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.	<b>Outstanding</b>	When the student writes: "there is one area that we think is of the same importance, and which is often disregarded. It is the area of the visual design of the test", she effectively states the aim of the thesis and delimits her area of inquiry. It is an original line of research that is conducted competently.
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.	<b>Very good</b>	For the most part this is excellent, but the section entitled Technical Features of Language Testing Validity (p. 10 ff) contains much material that is of little relevance to the remainder of the thesis. Only Face Validity and Usability are employed with any frequency later in the work.
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.	<b>Outstanding</b>	
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.	<b>Outstanding</b>	
5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	<b>Outstanding</b>	

<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><b>Outstanding</b></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><b>Outstanding</b></p>	

Final Comments & Questions

Although it may seem from the student's findings that the visual aspect of pedagogical materials in education in the Czech Republic is relatively competent, a casual look through text-books at both primary and secondary levels provides enough evidence of the contrary. Although the country has a rich and long tradition of book- and type-design, quite often this is not reflected in the materials that students at all levels encounter. Particularly poor in this respect are illustrations, a point which is echoed by the student in her acute analysis of State Final Examination in Language.

I recommend the grade of 1 (**výborně**).

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 31 July 2013

Signature: 