

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

Thesis Author: Martina Havlová

Title: The Use of Mother Tongue in English-Language Classes

Length: 70pp

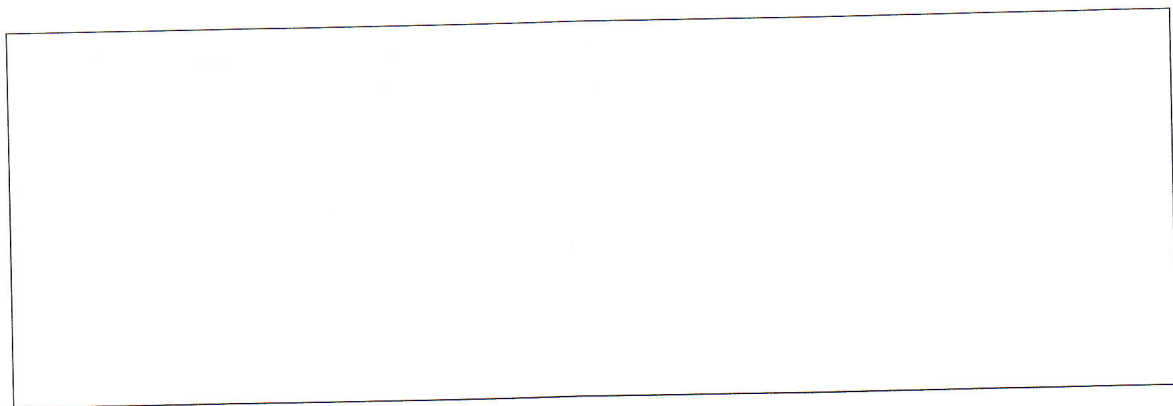
Text Length: 56pp

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	
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	A wide range of critics and views are covered in the theory section of the thesis. I am curious, however, to what degree the various approaches to L1 and L2 use in SLA have been empirically tested. The literature review here suggests that arguments take place on the level of <i>principle</i> rather than on the basis of studies of SLA speed across large numbers of learners with different L1. A further question is whether the particular L1s and L2s have an effect on these arguments. Surely if the L1 is French and the L2 English, then a different dynamic will be in play than if the L1 is Czech; similarly if the L1 is Czech and the L2 is Russian. For the student here, however, the L2 is English, and implicitly the L1 is Czech. The question then arises of the applicability of her conclusions for other L1s and L2s.
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	The student's research, although limited in scope, as she states, was commented upon and interpreted effectively. I do, however, question the presumption that a more systematic approach on the part of teachers would be more effective. First, as she concedes, there is no agreement in EFL theory about the correct extent of L1 use in SLA. How then is a "systematic"

		practice possible? Second, this presumption excludes the possibility that an <i>unsystematic</i> pedagogical approach might be more effective (it includes the element of surprise and variety). In short, the only way to find out is to measure SLA <i>speeds</i> across a wide range of students (and not just of teachers' attitudes and impressions). Such research is beyond the scope of an MA thesis, but it would have been helpful to see this formulated in the work.
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	The SLA theory was presented at a very general level, so it was a surprise for me when the student made the transition to quite specific situation of EFL in Czech secondary schools. Perhaps it would have helped if the theory section had narrowed more naturally to this particular area as it reached conclusion.
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	
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

It is clear that the thesis represents a good deal of work and concentration on the student's part. It has been executed well and I look forward to the student's responses to the issues raised above. I recommend the grade of **1-2, velmi dobře-výborně**.



Supervisor/Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D

Date: 12 May 2014

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by several loops and a horizontal line at the end.