

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

Thesis Author: Tereza Pecková
 Language advisory: Tips and advice for effective language learning – speaking skills
 Length: 78 pages
 Text Length: 51 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	
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 chapter seems to have two parts: general ideas about learning and ideas and concepts specific to the topic of the thesis. In other words, the first of the chapter is rather general and unfocused whereas the second part focuses more specifically on topics related to language learner autonomy and speaking. The author could have easily eliminated the overview of learning etc. pp. 3-13 and developed the ideas pp. 14 and on some more.</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 use of some visual tools e.g. graphs in the presentation of the results would help the reader to follow the data. I have, similarly to the author (as she says in the part addressing limitations of the research), wondered about the quality of the students' answers (e.g. do so many of them actually interact with their peers in English or do they only use selected English words in their interactions?).</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	
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. Pecková has gained expertise and experience regarding learning styles and strategies, learner autonomy, and the development of speaking skills outside the class. It shows Ms. Pecková's ability to choose a topic, identify and review relevant literature, and conduct research that would provide her with insights into language teaching practices and learners' experiences. Although some flaws can be identified in the thesis (e.g. in the theoretical background chapter), it is obvious that the thesis was driven by Ms. Pecková's interest in the researched topic. For these very reasons, it has been a very valuable project for the author and it is obvious that Ms. Pecková recognizes the value of guiding students in their development of learning skills and autonomy.

I suggest that the author is awarded the grade "very good" for her thesis project.

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.
 Date: May 17, 2013
 Signature: 