

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

Thesis Author: Michaela Krumlová  
 Title: Using apps to improve English learners' listening skills  
 Length: 66 pages  
 Text Length: 47 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	The author covers a number of issues that are connected to the topic of the thesis yet not of any immediate relevance (e.g. pp. 3-6, 10-12). The theory section could have been thematically more narrow and stay within the topic of listening skills and mobile apps.
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 author is very descriptive of some aspects of her research yet at the same time, she lacks some other ones. For example, there is no information on the experiment mentioned pp. 19-22. It isn't clear what and how happened and when exactly students used the questionnaire (Appendix D). Also, I find the overall design of the research a bit disordered or wide-ranging. The author tries to focus on a number of issues ranging from ownership of a mobile device to features of different apps. The author could have either focus on the students' use etc. mobile devices for learning purposes in general or assessment of selected listening apps. A clearer and more straightforward research design would have strengthened the overall outcome of the thesis.
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	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.		
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

Ms. Krumlová conducted a multifaceted examination of issues around mobile devices and listening apps. She shows a lot of enthusiasm about the topic of her thesis and expertise in the use of mobile technologies in language teaching. It is obvious that the author invested a lot of time and energy into the project. The results make the reader think about the examined subject matter and consider listening apps for language learning inside and outside a class. Even though the thesis bears some limitations as pointed out above, the work has, without any question, positively contributed to Ms. Krumlová's understanding of the subject matter and raises valuable questions around qualities and features of listening apps.

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

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: September 6, 2017

Signature:

