

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

Thesis Author: Petra Opatrná
 Title: Effective Use of Teaching Assistants in English Lessons
 Length: 48 pages
 Text Length: 63 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 Theoretical Background provides a well-structured basis for the Practical part.</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 results are described in great detail, which is definitely a strong point in the case of qualitative research. Nevertheless, no interpretation is given in terms of the author's commentaries.</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>There is not much critical evaluation from the author herself.</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	<i>The text is organized in a logical way. Occasional mistakes appear (e.g. p. 10 "should be strongly appreciate", "teachers in generally", p.40 "has to pushes").</i>
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	<i>Some parts of the theoretical review lack citation or are not cited properly – p.12 "Morávková Vějračková (p.58) recommends..."</i>

Final Comments & Questions

The thesis discusses the up-to-date topic of inclusion, specifically the role of assistants in English lessons. I appreciate the author's choice of this challenging topic as well as the variety of literary sources discussed. When general theories are mentioned they are frequently linked with the specific-educational-needs of pupils, thus they are specific and the information given is relevant. A few paragraphs of the theoretical background are left without citations. Although not explained, they are probably from the same author as the previous part(s) or they give the author's summary of the sources on a specific topic. Nevertheless, this is not always clear.

The chapter on Research Methodology nicely describes the research aims as well as the research methods and participants of the research. As one of the data collection instruments, Ms. Opatrná uses observations, which she based partly on Farrell et al.'s criteria for effective practice (referred as Appendix xx? p.30). I wonder why she did not use the criteria of other authors mentioned in the theoretical part, e.g. those presented on page 17 or 18-19.

The results given are interesting and can serve as a good example of how inclusion can look in an English class. I believe the author has benefited from the research and I would like to know how she could specifically use her research results for her own teaching practice. Also, I would like to hear Ms. Opatrná's commentary on the results themselves.

As stated above, the work has its strong and weak points. I suggest a "very good" grade.

Supervisor: Mgr. Barbora Benešová, Ph.D.

Date: September 5, 2017

Signature:

