

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

Thesis Author: Anna Šimicová
 Title: Development of reading skills in an English class in lower secondary education
 Length: 55 pages
 Text Length: 52 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 shows familiarity with the major topics in teaching reading in L2. She addresses relevant issues associated with her research. On one hand, it is of somewhat value to present a rather broad and general overview of the major topics. On the other hand, the approach doesn't allow for a deep examination of the topics (e.g. reading strategies p. 18, materials and texts section). Consequently, the review comes across as a synopsis of general knowledge of the subject matter rather than thorough and informative exploration of selected matters.
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 successfully outlines her research approach. Unfortunately, I find the research question very broad – focusing on ways of approaching reading in classes involves so many subtopics. Similarly to my comment above, the breadth of the research takes away from its depth. Research focusing on a particular element of issues involved in teaching reading skills (e.g. stages of a reading lesson, types of texts, and types of tasks) would, in my opinion, be more educational.
4. The results/data are analyzed and interpreted effectively. The chapter ties the theory with the findings. It addresses the applications and	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	The presentation of the findings is clear, well organized.

implications of the research. It discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.	Very deficient	
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	The organization of the thesis doesn't meet the required chapter numbering, divisions and labels. The materials in appendixes are not presented in both in Czech and English.

Final Comments & Questions

The thesis clearly shows that Ms. Šimicová has gained expertise and experience about teaching reading skills to English language learners. It shows Ms. Šimicová's ability to choose a topic, identify and review relevant literature, and conduct research that would provide her with insights into language teaching practices. Although some flaws can be identified in the thesis, it is obvious that the thesis was driven by Šimicová'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. Šimicová recognizes the value of teaching reading skills.

I would like the student to address these questions during the defense:
 You talk about acquiring reading skills in the thesis. Can you elaborate on the meaning of the term "acquire" in relation to skills and language knowledge?
 The text is short of the topic of genres in teaching reading skills. What value, if any, do you find in addressing different genres in reading lessons?

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

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: June 9, 2020

Signature: