

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Matěj Živčák
 Title: Digital storytelling and its effect on writing skills
 Length: 68 pages
 Text Length: 53 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 author covers several issues connected to the topic of the thesis, yet he does not provide a thorough background on implementing digital storytelling in ELT classes. The author provides the rationale for DS and its educational values. Still, the chapter is short of explicit information on the methodology of DS and issues specific to DS with English language learners.</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	<i>The author doesn't explain how exactly he conducted his observations. Also, he doesn't specify how the results of the first questionnaire informed his delivery of DS lessons. As for the author's research questions, it seems that answers to Q2 and Q3 would be found in the literature more than in the author's research. On the other hand, I appreciate the author's ethical approach to the study and using a research consent form.</i>
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 author presents a range of data without clearly tying them together and connecting them with his research questions. Also, it isn't clear why the section titled <i>The Stories</i> is included here in relation to the focus of the author's research.</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>The author draws sound conclusions about his experience.</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 author could have provided introductory and closing paragraphs to his chapters for better transitions between chapters.</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 of the author's references do not have complete information (e.g. Anderson, Chraska). Capital letters in references nor headings follow APA format.</i>

Final Comments & Questions

The thesis clearly shows that Mr. Živčák's has gained expertise in digital storytelling and its educational v value. His interest in the topic and enthusiasm for bringing together technology and language learning are apparent in the text. The thesis also shows Mr. Živčák's ability to choose a topic, identify and review relevant literature, and conduct research that would provide him with insights into implementing new classroom practices. Unfortunately, getting familiar with the thesis doesn't give clear insights into the 'hows' of digital storytelling. The project lacks the depth that would provide strong theoretical background for the practical delivery of digital storytelling (e.g. ELT methodology, preliminary language, technology, literacy skills). Also, the collected data don't show a clear direction for implementing digital storytelling with learners. Overall, it seems that the biggest value of the project lies in the author's experience with delivering digital storytelling lessons. It is obvious that the author invested a lot of time and energy into the project. Even though the thesis bears some limitations, as pointed out above, it has been a very valuable project for the author and his teaching career.

I would like the author to address the following questions during his defense:

What needs to be taken care of to exploit the value of digital storytelling with language learners fully?
What are your takeaways from this research for ELT or teaching in general?

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

Reviewer: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: June 6, 2023

Signature: