

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology, Linguistics)
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Michaela Pláničková

Title: Developing Critical Thinking Skills with Visual Materials

Length: 53 pages

Text Length: 43 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	<i>The author writes a very straightforward introduction that provides readers with a clear idea about the focus and structure of the thesis.</i>
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>Due to the focus of the research, the author reviews literature in multiple theoretical/applied linguistics areas. In my opinion, the author presents all the necessary background information on the subject matter to ground her research in and also be later able to discuss the findings in contrast with theory.</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 provides background information on her research and data collection to explore her research questions. She is very specific about each step that was taken in the research process.</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 takes a descriptive approach when presenting her findings. The consequent discussion of the findings is also well structured. The author refers back to theory and shows discrepancies between her research findings and what experts state on the subject matter.</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	

<p>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.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient</p>	

Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Pláničková conducted a focused, useful, and interesting analysis of students' ability to talk about/describe pictures. The data raise awareness of the need to go beyond traditionally asked questions in language classes. This approach would not only allow students to develop critical thinking skills about images that they encounter, but it could also encourage the development of their speaking skills in general. The presented thesis provides good guidance on how to go about it and effectively implement questioning strategies with pictures into language classes. I believe that this project has provided the author with good insights into language teaching and positively contributed to her overall professional development that is so needed for successful classroom instruction.

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: August 17, 2012

Signature:

