

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Martin Chýlek
 Title: Gender Differences in Communication
 Length: 27
 Text Length: 24

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	This is far too short.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author knows quite a lot and the research is wide, but there are a lack of examples, illustrations, and quotations which account for why the thesis falls short of the minimum page requirement.
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author dutifully reports linguistic gender differences but does little to help the reader understand how to create more effective communication between the sexes or to create a more equitable workplace.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, this is more of a report than a work of criticism.
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, too short to be of much help.
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 uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	For the most part the thesis is well written and well organized.

7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	There were problems with syntax, for instance in the description of "intimate distance" the author creates more confusion than clarity.
8. 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	There are few quotations. The references page does not meet format requirements. The thesis does not meet the 30 page min. requirement.

Final Comments & Questions

Despite the fact that this thesis is too short and has received middling to low marks, I find the subject and the research extremely interesting. I wonder if the author's unwillingness to elaborate or provide details is a result of his gender. If indeed, men see things in terms of problem solution, the problem has not been clearly defined, and certainly the solution remains far removed from the diploma work in its present state. One of the problems with the thesis is that it spends too long defining sociological and linguistic terms and provides few if any examples of their operation. Even better the author could have illustrated these examples in terms of gender. As it is, we are a third of the way through the thesis before there is a discussion of biological differences in men and women and how these affect language use and acquisition. If indeed women give indirect orders "Is it cold in here?" as opposed to direct masculine "close the window," is this a result of sex or gender? Is this a universal truth or only in European discourse? If women speak "more politely, swear less, and use more questions tags" you don't really speculate as to *why* this is true. Is the answer sociological or biological? You must be careful in saying something like women speak with "less power" if what you mean is with less volume. The thesis could be accused of sexist language itself, or at least of problems with word choice. The author's syntax makes things more confusing when he defines intimate space as "used during fight, sex, or for protection". How does one "use" space? The meaning of this is unclear and would be a perfect place for the author to expand and go into further detail, and yet time and time again he is unwilling to do so. The thesis appears rushed and there is a lack of attention paid to details, especially in the references page. It will be for the committee to decide if it is even possible to give this thesis a grade because it falls short of the 30 page minimum requirement. For the defense, the author should think of some solutions to the problems created by our different communications styles. For instances, I would very much like to know if he thinks maternity is beneficial to women and also his opinion about the way women are perceived in the work place, especially in the field of education .

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 19.08.2013

Signature:

