

Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Emma MAVRIC
Qualification Work Title	Intercultural challenges and plurilingualism in the area of education
Name and Type of Study Programme	Regional and European Project Management / Navazující
Faculty / Department	Ekonomická fakulta / KRM
Supervisor	Johnen Thomas, prof. Dr.
Review author	Prof. Dr. Thomas Johnen

Thesis evaluation

1. Logical structure of the thesis 1.0

Note: The subject is actually very relevant. In European societies we are far from solutions to the challenges for education presented by the multilingualism. The basic notions are all well-defined with regard to the newest discussions.

2. Fulfillment of objectives 1.5

Note: The hypotheses have been answered by the research review and the analysis.

3. Methodological approach 1.0

Note: The methodological approach is innovative. It is relatively new and has been used only in a few research works.

4. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 1.0

Note: In my opinion, the main contribution of this master's thesis is the exploration and adaptation of the language portrait method to adult professionals. In the critical reflection, the limits of this method are described clearly.

5. Handling of literature 2.0

Note: Especially in the introduction there is a lack of references, but this may be due to the French style for introductions, not to cite too much in this text genre.

6. Formal aspects 1.0

Note: The thesis is very well written with regard to all formal aspects. There are only a few mistakes, not more than it would be acceptable for a scientific paper which is submitted for publication. The illustrations are well placed.

7. Student's own contribution to the studied problems 1.5

Note: . The main merit of this thesis is in my opinion to have adapted to adult professionals and tested in this context the achievements and limits of the language portrait method which is an innovative method in research about multilingualism.

8. Monitoring for plagiarism (result) **negative**

Conclusion

Thesis evaluation (note): **very good**

I recommend the thesis for defence: **YES**

Questions and comments

Critical comments and overall contributions, total value of the thesis

The subject is actually very relevant. In European societies we are far from solutions to the challenges for education presented by the multilingualism. It's a very clever decision to analyse as an example the perception of teachers in French as a Foreign language of their own situation with regard to their plurilingualism.

The methodological framework is very interesting and innovative. There are only a few research studies which have been done with Language Portraits.

The basic notions are all well-defined with regard to the newest discussions on an European level. The hypotheses have been answered by the research review and the analysis. However in my opinion, due to the explorative character of this qualitative research, it is questionable if the aim of such a study can be to establish hypotheses and then to verify or falsify them. The research design favors the establishment of new and unforeseen hypotheses but not the verification of hypotheses which had been established on the basis of previous knowledge.

The literature considered in this Master's thesis is absolutely relevant and generally very well chosen, including an European perspective. However, no special attention is paid to the specificities of the situations in the countries of the informants (Germany and Serbia).

The thesis is very well written with regard to all formal aspects. There are only a few mistakes, not more than it would be acceptable for a scientific paper which is submitted for publication. The illustrations are well placed. The telling of the story how the author knew about the chosen method (p. 17) should have been suppressed, because it is not adequate for an academic paper.

The main merit of this thesis is in my opinion to have adapted to adult professionals and tested in this context the achievements and limits of the language portrait method which is an innovative method in research about multilingualism. Another contribution is that it is shown that this method should not be used with adults as the only method but should be taken as a starting point and completed by qualitative interviews or other methods of qualitative research.

To sum it up:

This thesis is well written, well documented and represents an original research in that sense that an innovative method conceived for research with children has been adapted, applied to adult professionals and tested. The limits of this method are well described in the thesis (the achievements and merits less). It has been shown that the chosen method is not suitable for analyse the second part of the second hypothesis. In order to answer this part the conducting of qualitative interviews would have been necessary. But this lack can even be considered as a result of the testing of the chosen method which up to now, as I know, never had been adapted and applied to adults. So, even if the thesis has limitations which are well described by the author, it is an original research with a very good and critical analysis of the institutional background of the subject and the merits mentioned above concerning the methodology. Therefore I would evaluate it BENE – velmi dobře.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

Question 1: The methodology used in this thesis originally has been conceived in order to do research about children's perception of their own multilingualism. What is different if you employ the method in research with adults? (for example with regard to the design of the method; with regard to the way of self-reflection of the informants; with regard to the perceptions of their own multilingualism).

Question 2: Regarding the way the informants reflect their own multilingualism including the

perceived differences between personal and professional life, can you perceive points which could be explored for the improvement of foreign language classes which take in consideration the plurilingual situation in classrooms in our days?

Question 3: Is it really impossible to do qualitative research interviews with persons the researcher has a personal relationship with, as you write on page 32?

Question 4: What is the difference between multilingual and pluringual competence in your opinion?

Date: Sep 12, 2018

Signature of supervisor