

Review of Master work supervisor

Name and Surname of Student	Charline RIOUS
Qualification Work Title	Regional identity and linguistic identity
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 1.5

Note: The subject is actually very relevant, as the chosen region may be considered as a positive example of minority rights realization. The methodological framework is in principal well chosen. The qualitative approach is appropriate.

2. Fulfillment of objectives 2.0

Note: The research question is well answered, however some issues like the diatopic situation between Standard German and South-Tyrolean dialects could have been better analysed.

3. Methodological approach 2.5

Note: The qualitative interviews in principle are well conducted. Face-to-face interviews and e-mail-interviews are used. But there is no reflection about the specificity of each method, neither about the languages used for the interviews

4. Assessment of theoretical and/or practical contribution of the thesis 2.0

Note: The main contribution of this master's thesis is to have delivered empirical data which show that the linguistic and identity conflict in the region is not over, but that there is a perception that this is more on the political level.

5. Handling of literature 3.0

Note: See comments.

6. Formal aspects 3.0

Note: In the list of references only the links, not the name of the reviews, neither number and pages are indicated. The rest of the formal aspects is o.k.

7. Student's own contribution to the studied problems 2.0

Note: See also the comment with regard to item 4. The main merit of this thesis is in my opinion to have planned and conducted qualitative interviews of four people who are linked in different ways to the two main linguistic communities of S.Tyrol.

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, as the chosen region may be considered as a positive example of minority rights realization.

The methodological framework is in principal well chosen. The qualitative approach is appropriate to deliver deeper insights in the subjective vision with regard to the subject, however is the presentation of the methodological framework rather superficial.

The basic notions are all well-defined. Always different points of view are presented and discussed. The research question is well answered, however some issues like the diglossic situation between Standard German and South-Tyrolean dialects could have been better analysed. The interviewees themselves aren't always coherent about this topic. So it should have been necessary to explicit the implicit assumptions more clearly.

The qualitative interviews in principle are well conducted. Face-to-face interviews and e-mail-interviews are used. But there is no reflection about the specificity of each method, neither about the fact that in the case of two interviews those are not conducted in the interviewee's mother tongue.

The transcriptions according to GAT2 are quite reliable.

In my opinion, the main contribution of this master's thesis is to have delivered empirical data which show that the linguistic and identity conflict in the region is not over, but that there is a perception that this is more on the political level, not in every day life. However the informants of the Italoophone community and the Germanophone Community have different subjective language ideologies. It seems that the author was not really aware about these interesting achievements.

The author has found a lot of relevant scientific literature, but only in French and English. She didn't consider research done by Southtyrolean researchers or linguists from German speaking countries published in German. Sometimes the literature is misunderstood. So she claims for example in the conclusion a decline of the German dialects in South Tyrol based on Spagnoli (2015). The problem is, that this article is about Cimbrian and Mòcheno, the varieties of two Bavarian minorities in the Province of Trento who immigrated in the Middle Ages and not about the dialects in South Tyrol (see p. 56). Articles like Riehl, Claudia Maria (2007): "Varietätengebrauch und Varietätenkontakt in Südtirol und Ostbelgien", in: *Linguistik online* 32,3, pp. 105-117 would have given a more adequate orientation.

Some historical information is taken from touristic homepages and not from scientific publications. Sometimes there are misunderstandings about the historical facts, when it is stated that Andreas Hofer fought against the italianisation during the fascism (cf. p. 12) or when it is stated that: "Les germanophones ont donc plus souvent recours au dialecte qu'à la langue standard et cela au detriment di dialecte italien" (p. 19). This sentences presupposes that the speakers of German dialects also were speaker of Italian dialects and now use it less than the German dialects.

The main merit of this thesis is in my opinion to have planned and conducted qualitative interviews of four people who are linked in different ways to the two main linguistic communities of South Tyrol including reliable transcriptions of the interviews.

To sum it up, this thesis is a remarkable effort to collect and to analyse empirical data about a subject which is a relevant subject. Even if there are some misunderstandings of some details and the analysis didn't explore all relevant aspects of the data in depth, it is quite well done.

Questions and topics for discussion before the commission

Question 1: What is different in a face-to-face interview in a L2 of the interviewee and a e-mail interview in the L1?

Question 2: What is the implicit language ideology of Daniela?

Question 3: Is the sociolinguistic situation of the local dialects in South Tyrol comparable to

Cimberian and Mòchen in the Trento province?

Question 4: Are there differences in the perception of dialect and Standard German by Gerta Egger and Walter Wiedenhofer?

Question 5: If you had the possibility to conduct a large scale quantitative survey about language and identity in South Tyrol what would you focus on, seen the results of your M.A.'s thesis?

Question 6: Is it fair to assume that in our days bilingualism may be considered as a part of the regional identity of South Tyrol?

Question 7: The German speaking interviewees mentioned that in future immigrants who don't speak neither German nor Italian and even less the local German dialects could come to South Tyrol. What does the fact that the Kompetenzzentrum – Förderung von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund of the Province Bolzano edits schoolmaterial in southtyrolean dialect (Gurschler, Michael/ Tscholl, Evi Rita (2015): Dazu gehören: Südtiroler Dialekt von Jugendlichen für Jugendliche; Arbeitsmaterialien zum Südtiroler Dialekt. Bozen: Autonome Provinz Boen – Südtirol, Deutsches Bildungsressort, Kompetenzzentrum – Förderung von Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund, online:

<http://www.bildung.suedtirol.it/files/4414/4119/7687/DaZUgeHren.pdf>) reveal about the relationship between dialect and regional identity ?

Question 8: If you compare the situation in South Tyrol with the situation in the Alsace Region on one side and the Germanophone Community in Eastern Belgium on the other side, what conclusions may be drawn on the interrelationship between the national language policy and the identity of minority language speakers?

Date: Sep 11, 2019

Signature of supervisor