

Opponent review of dissertation thesis

Dissertation: An evaluation of existing service provisions for students with hearing impaired and the conditions necessary for effective implementation of inclusive education programme in Nigeria

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PhD study program: Special Education Studies

Supervisor: Prof. PhDr. PaedDr. Miloň Potměšil, Ph.D.

Opponent: Prof. PaedDr. Darina Tarcsiová, PhD.

a) Assessment of the significance of dissertation to special education study

Submitted dissertation of Ewa James of Abu deals with the issue that is very current globally not only in the field of deaf education, but in the whole population of children / pupils and students with special needs. The currency of the research theme and its realisation in different circumstances (economic, cultural, etc.) provides new insights into possibilities how the implement inclusive education of persons with hearing impairments.

b) A statement to problem resolution process, used methods and attainment of goals

The work has a traditional structure - theoretical and practical (empirical), the list of references and appendices (total 213 pages). Unusually theoretical part is much more extensive (121 pages), with the first part of an introduction to the whole dissertation (objective, research questions, limits, definition of terms). The second part is a very comprehensive examination of the literature review, author proceed from the literature of commonly accessible also for us and focused on developed countries, but author also proceed from researches and publication outputs realized by domestic experts. The paper discussed the varying areas of dissertation that are subsequently research investigated. I think that to some topics should be paid more attention - for example 2.2 (p.39). This section provides a solid overview of theoretical information, although some information is repeated, respectively the author returns to them from a different perspective and some are repeatedly used in the research area (for example information on Nigeria - p. 124).

To this part of the work I have submitted the following comments, respectively comments:

p. 38 - new classification of hearing loss by WHO - deafness is already above 81 dB,

p. 44 - between methods lacks auditory - verbal approach

what is the manual method, if the author further mentions total communication, simultaneous communication and bilingual approach

p. 55 - in this part there are mixed states and continents - Europe. America, Lesotho...

p. 80 – there are described difficulties in securing assistive technology. What are the real possibilities for children and students with hearing impairments?

p. 108 - I do not understand the contradiction between the statement that there are sign language interpreters: oral and cued speech. A then following sentence: oral sign language interpreters. I seek clarification – isn't it about three groups - oral interpreter, sign language interpreter and cued speech interpreter?

The empirical part is less extensive (about 50 pages), the rest is an overview of literary sources and more than 20 pages of attachments (a questionnaire used in implementing research, letters for addressing, the characteristics of the survey sample).

The empirical part is carried out on a large sample of respondents (7400) from different groups of respondents.

Research questions and research hypotheses (6) are reasonably formulated to reach the research goal and deal with areas which are detailed in the theoretical part.

I have no comments to used research methods or statistical methods, in details are described the methods of construction of the questionnaire and also its variability and validity. What do I miss in this part is an accurate description of the research sample (find attached) and I miss more information about the implementation of research - for example number of posted questionnaires, response rate, time slots when was the research conducted, the number of other co-workers who are mentioned in the thesis. So at work I did not find information about the realization of the interview, how the author dealt with the interview and how it was put into the results of the quantitative part of the research. In my opinion to make presented research findings more transparent, author could use graphic information as well as the presentation of results with respect to each group of respondents (teachers, students, school principal, etc.) which could provide further very interesting intermediate results.

c) Opinion on the results of the thesis and the original particular contribution of this dissertation

The results of the present research published in the dissertation provide information about the possibilities and limitations of implementation of inclusive education in Nigeria, which in many areas have confirmed previous research undertaken in this field respectively confirmed the conditions described in the theoretical part.

For the contribution I consider the fact that the survey sample is very large, it consists of several groups of experts, on the other hand, the obtained results can be the basis for implementation of measures in the field of special education and specific education of hearing impaired, as well as other researches in Nigeria, as the author described in the discussion.

The question under discussion:

- When was the research realized (time data), and how many assistants were in its implementation?
- Complete the information about the realization of interviews and its processing methods and the main results.
- When using the Likert scale there is used even four-stage scale, but usually it refers to the odd number of degrees. What made you chose only 4-level scale?
- How is actually provided preparing teachers for students with hearing impairments, and what are the requirements for these teachers?
- The paper pointed out the difficulties in realization of research in the area occupied by group Boko Haram: What led you to do choose just the territory of Northern and Southern Nigeria?

d) Conclusion

This dissertation of author Ewa James of Abu: *An evaluation of existing service provisions for students with hearing impaired and the Conditions Necessary for effective implementation of inclusive education program in Nigeria* complied with the formal and substantive requirements for dissertations and after successful defence before the Commission and answering questions

I recommend

grant to named academic title Philosophiae Doctor - Ph.D.

Prof. PaedDr. Darina Tarcsiová, PhD.

Opponent of Dissertation thesis

Dissertation Assessment

Author: **EWA James Abua, N.C.E., B.Ed., M.Ed.**

Title of thesis: **An Evaluation of Existing Service Provisions for Students with Hearing Impairment and the Conditions Necessary for Effective Implementation of Inclusive Education Programme in Nigeria**

Author of the dissertation assessment: **doc. Mgr. Jiří Langer, Ph.D.**

The present dissertation by Mgr. James Abua Ewa is focused on the topical issue of existing service provisions for the students with hearing impairment and the conditions necessary for effective implementation of inclusive education in Nigeria.

Formal assessment of the dissertation

The dissertation has a total of 188 pages of text and 24 pages of annexes. The dissertation is logically structured into five chapters, of which the first two chapters form a theoretical basis, the following three chapters are devoted to the description of the research and its results. The concept and arrangement of the dissertation match the standard, i.e. from the initial findings in the field to a detailed description and evaluation of data established during the research. The author underpins the theoretical background and the application of research processes by more than 180 titles comprising of specialized literature and information sources, a majority of which is of an English-speaking origin.

The linguistic and stylistic form of the dissertation is excellent, there are only few typing errors, the information sources are properly cited as per applicable citation standards.

Evaluation of the theoretical part

In the introductory chapter the author very aptly presents an overview of the issue, defines the research problem and research objective, and formulates the research questions and hypotheses (I have no objection). I think the presentation of the risks of the research and the definition of basic terms used throughout the paper are appropriate.

In the second chapter the author in great detail describes the theoretical background of the issue, including hearing impairment, education and inclusive education of the deaf, assistive technologies, teachers' personalities and supportive services. Despite the fact that the text has minor factual or terminological deficiencies, the author has demonstrated knowledge of the issue and current research studies in an international context.

In general, I consider the theoretical part of the paper very successful, presenting all significant theoretical aspects.

Evaluation of the research part

In the introduction of the empirical part, which comprises the third chapter, the author presents the research methods used in the research including a description of their subsequent application. I very much appreciate the measurement of validity and reliability of the questionnaires, as well as the course of data collection using quantitative and qualitative methods. I have no objections to the methodology of the research study.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation is devoted to the assessment of the hypotheses and their detailed interpretation. I also appreciate the critical comparison of the formulated conclusions with the results of previous research studies on a similar topic. Regarding the large size of the research sample, the presented results can be readily generalized; the clarity of the results in some cases would be improved by graphical representation, for example by using simple charts. A separate sub-chapter presents the results of qualitative interviews with key stakeholders in the process of implementing inclusive education in Nigeria.

In the last chapter five the author summarizes the findings, confirms or disproves hypotheses and related conclusions, and finally articulates 17 general and specific recommendations for system changes aimed at the implementation of inclusive education of persons with hearing impairment in Nigeria.

Even though the practical part is smaller than usual for this type of dissertations, I think the empirical part is appropriate and meets the required level.

Conclusion

The objectives of the paper and its empirical part defined by the author have undoubtedly been achieved. The author spent a considerable amount of time in the process of data collection, analysis and application in the text; in my opinion the author did a good job in obtaining quantitative research data from a large number of respondents, this part is aptly complemented with a qualitative survey. The paper also opens a number of topics for further research activities.

For the defence I recommend discussion on the following topics:

- Difficulties and complications in the process of data collection (quantitative and qualitative part);
- Comparison of significant differences between the answers of various groups of respondents;
- Future measures for the development of inclusive education in persons with hearing impairment in Nigeria using the present results.

The present dissertation by Mgr. James Abua Ewa *An Evaluation of Existing Service Provisions for Students with Hearing Impairment and the Conditions Necessary for Effective Implementation of Inclusive Education Programme in Nigeria* is surely a high-quality contribution to the development in the field and deepens the insight into inclusive education in persons with hearing impairment. The paper is based on a review of literature; the survey is appropriate in terms of methodology and contains previous as well as new findings. The author has demonstrated an ability to carry out research activities matching the required level.

With regard to the facts mentioned above I recommend the dissertation for defence, and in case of positive defence I suggest Mgr. James Abua Ewa be awarded the academic degree Ph.D.

In Olomouc, 20 May 2016

doc. Mgr. Jiří Langer, Ph.D.