



Faculty
of Education

Opponent's report on dissertation

Title of Dissertation: ICT-Assisted Support System for Teacher's Problem Solving

Author: Yang Lei

Field of Study: Education

Opponent: Doc. Mgr. Štefan Chudý, Ph.D.

Workplace of Opponent: Institute of Education and Social Studies, Faculty of Education, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

In his dissertation, Yang Lei presents a comprehensive work on the issue of systematic support and organization in addressing a multidimensional problem. The dissertation comprises 6 separate chapters and an introduction, conclusion and lists of references and tables. The structure of the dissertation corresponds with the Anglo-Saxon style.

1) Significance of the dissertation in the relevant research field

In the dissertation, the author attempts to perform theoretical-practical analyses. He describes the basic attributes of the phenomena of ICT-Assisted Support System and Teacher's Problem Solving. The author aims to reveal the content of the issue from an interdisciplinary perspective.

2) Aims of the dissertation and used methods

The basic aim of the dissertation is to describe, on the basis of an analysis, the methods of solving problematic situations relating to ELT and TPS education and to characterize the possibilities and limitations of the measures in practice.

I appreciate that the author did not restrict himself to statements but proposed solutions that have the potential to improve the situation.

As far as the methodology is concerned, the problem I see is that the basic aspects of research validity are not discussed. This, in a way, raises a question concerning the selection of methods and design of the research. **Therefore, during the defence I demand precise specification of the validity aspects with respect to applicable methodological standards.** The issue of validity is closely related to the selection of the methods that the author presents for example on pages 70 and 71. **To what extent is the Side-by-Side comparison considered in the qualitative and quantitative part of the description of research data in the analysis of the narrations?**

During the defence the author should also explain which criteria were used to compare the data from thematic and descriptive analyses.

3) Results of research

The results of the research are presented directly in the text, which I appreciate very much. This has made the text of the dissertation a seamless whole that provides a comprehensive overview of the issue. The tables provided in the dissertation accompany the results in a suitable way. I also appreciate the applicability of the results not only on the descriptive level but also the metacognitive level. As a result, the dissertation contains elements of a systematic approach and is not restricted to mere statements but instead attempts to present a new vision and amend the existing study programmes.

4) Formal issues of the dissertation

The dissertation includes minor formal language errors but they do not affect the dissertation in any way. The content of the dissertation is well-balanced. The author uses scientific literature in an appropriate way and provides citations and a corresponding list of references. The structure of the dissertation is very clear and the formal arrangement is of a high standard. It might be advisable to add more diagrams, graphs and figures (considering various types of readers who fix their knowledge by means of graphical representations), but this is not absolutely necessary.

Summary of the questions for defence:

1. Describe the basic methodological strategy in terms of the selection of the research design and the selection of the data collection methods, data analysis methods, and data evaluation methods.
2. Describe the benefits of the dissertation and the opportunities for further research in the area.

Conclusion

The dissertation by *Yang Lei* fulfils the criteria set by Palacký University, Faculty of Education for **awarding scientific titles**. His work contributes to the field of special education and brings new original findings. Therefore I **recommend this dissertation for the defence procedure and after answering and explanation of the questions I suggest that *Yang Lei* be awarded with the academic title Ph.D.**

Olomouc 13 July 2020

doc. Mgr. Štefan Chudý, Ph.D.

Opponent's report on dissertation

Title of Dissertation: ICT-Assisted Support System for Teacher's Problem Solving

Author: Yang Lei

Field of Study: Education

Opponent: Doc. PhDr. Lenka Haburajová Ilavská, Ph.D., Faculty of Humanities,
Tomas Bata University in Zlín

Workplace of Opponent: Institute of Education and Social Studies, Faculty of Education,
Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

Significance of the dissertation in the relevant research field, aims of the dissertation and methods

The aim of the dissertation was to provide an overview of the issue of technologies and innovations with an emphasis on their application in social sciences and education. In the dissertation, the author presents the topic of systematic support in the area of education and (self)development of teachers.

The author uses various types of analyses to specify the basic attributes of development in the area. This area is well presented in theoretical chapters; at the same time, the author explains the contexts of the national curriculum, which are, however, of a more global dimension.

The content of the dissertation needs to be considered from an implicit perspective as the author suggests many aspects in chapters dealing with the analysis of the results. Also for this reason the dissertation is interesting and attractive in terms of its content and contribution.

As far as the terminology is concerned, the author has clearly demonstrated an effort to describe the issue in a comprehensive way, which is also supported by a good selection of literary sources. Here, I believe, less is sometimes more. The rationalization of the paradigms reflects the relevant theory and practice. In the last part of the dissertation the author specifies the results and recommendations for practice. An important result of the analyses is the change in the education policy. At this point, I would like to ask the following questions:

To what extent can the results be applied in a global context, for example as part of specific courses or general study?

What changes do you expect in the context of the reformation of the current educational policy of the region following the current global threat of Covid-19?

The objectives and research procedures clearly define the research issue. The proposed solutions are achievable. The methodology of the research is of an Anglo-Saxon design and is well specified and provided with graphs. This type of methodology is functional and feasible.

The sequence of research steps is correct and provides many opportunities for a repeated study. What might be problematic is the reliability and validity of the research.

Describe the basic processes that you used in the research in order to ensure its reliability and validity.

The results of the research are presented in the dissertation, which is a great advantage of this type of papers, also because the results are not provided in a mere descriptive way. The author suggests further application of the results and emphasises a systematic approach.

Summary of the questions for defence:

The dissertation seems to be a great introduction into the issue and I believe that the author will continue further in-depth research activities on educational methodology with possible applications in the theory of the teaching profession or other educational disciplines. The overall impression of the text is excellent and I believe it will contribute to the relevant fields of study and practice.

Conclusion

The dissertation by *Yang Lei* fulfils the criteria set by Palacký University, Faculty of Education for awarding scientific titles. His work contributes to the field of special education and brings new original findings. Therefore **I recommend this dissertation for the defence procedure and after answering and explanation of the questions I suggest that *Yang Lei* be awarded with the academic title Ph.D.**

Zlín, 15 July 2020

Doc. PhDr. Lenka Haburajová Ilavská, Ph.D.