

Dissertation evaluation

Hui-Wen Kuo

„The Attitudes of Young Adolescents toward their Peers with Intellectual Disabilities”

Tutor: Doc. PhDr. Marie Černá, CSc.

Wen's work is outstanding. She chose an important topic which reflects one of the crucial issues in the field of inclusion, particularly in inclusive education, and its influence on the future of everyone. The role of schoolmates/peers contributes greatly toward the success of inclusion in general.

The aim of the research has been well defined, and well reached. Four formulated research questions, and the following hypotheses based on the questions, are relevant to the chosen topic and are fully acceptable. The study provides insight into the attitudes of young adolescents toward their peers with intellectual disabilities, and the results can serve for teachers and education policy makers to enrich inclusive education in general, and particularly in inclusive education strategy.

The dissertation (total pages 112) is logically structured into five chapters; appendices and references are included.

Chapter two Literature Review shows an extensive overview of literature. I highly appreciate Wen's demonstrated ability to associate all the theoretical knowledge she obtained from many sources with her own commentaries {e.g. p. 28-29, and others}. The division of this chapter into four subchapters helps to organize the large number of sources.

Chapter three dealing with methodology is also well elaborated; it describes each procedure undertaken to conduct the research. Description of research design, participants and instruments is clear and convincing.

Analysis and results, described in chapter four, display the author's ability to analyze the data from different point of view, along with verification of the hypotheses. **For the viva I suggest to introduce hypothesis four “9th graders have more positive attitudes toward their peers with ID than 7th graders” that has not been supported, and to explain this result in more depth.**

Final chapter five includes well-thought-out conclusions and suggestions. The findings and arguments are well justified and are positive and promising for inclusion. The suggestions have potential for further research, and they also have value in the field of educational practice.

Wen worked independently, with great responsibility and full involvement in the topic, during the period of preparation and writing the dissertation. She also demonstrated her ability to discuss advice given by me, and cooperated closely in improvement of the text. Wen's dissertation is correctly presented in standard English.

I recommend Hui-Wen Kuo's dissertation to be accepted for viva.

Mark: excellent

Prague, August 2007



M.Černá