



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Marie Anna Gajdosova

Title: Challenges of the Child DDR: A Case Study of the DR of the Congo

Programme/year: BS, 2019/2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Emil Aslan

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	6
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	24
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	30
<i>Total</i>		80	60
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	10
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	20
TOTAL		100	80



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The author provides a solid literature review. Yet it is not obvious what the gap in the literature is: if studies have been written on a phenomenon and we know a lot about it, why write a thesis on it? The author herself claims that “[t]his thesis is my contribution to the already existing literature. It will be slightly different from the previously mentioned literature. It will combine the main points which run through the majority of the theoretical literature and apply them to the case study of the DRC.”

If this is the case, then I would expect her to single out individual aspects of DDR known from the general literature on the phenomenon – and then apply them to the Congo case. Testing a theory would have worked well on this case. (The author proceeds rather descriptively – and whatever relates to the general lit on DDR is to be inferred implicitly by the reader).

After all, the author herself claims that “[t]he case study of the DRC is not as broadly discussed, and therefore it provides for a different outlook on the problematics of child DDR and its future changes.” While several studies have been written on the subject, I am not sure if (how) the present thesis casts innovative light on it. If yes (I’m not a specialist on the subject matter), this should have been made explicit. This could have been managed had the author contacted me in the process.

Minor criteria:

Apart from this, the thesis is well-organized. It is relatively well rooted in the empirical knowledge of the case study (again, I’m not the right person to judge this, but this is the impression that I’m left with). It does have some theoretical guidance, although it could have been more explicit about how it contributes to the literature.

Overall evaluation:

A relatively well-executed case study. While the author presents a body of theoretical (general) knowledge on the phenomenon, she fails to connect it to her study to actually test a theory and contribute, by her analysis of the Congo case study, to the general state of knowledge.

Suggested grade: 80 (C)

Signature: Emil Aslan (Souleimanov)



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