

***Dissertation marking and feedback sheet***

**Programme:** Erasmus Mundus MA/Mgr. in Special and Inclusive Education  
**Module:** Dissertation  
**Module code:** ERM030L003S  
**Student Name:** Franchez Lynette Torres  
**Student Number:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Marker's name:** Mgr. Šárka Káňová, Ph.D.

**Title of dissertation:**

The Perception of Pre-Service Special and General Education Teachers on the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs in the Regular Classroom

**Use of literature/evidence:**

Lynette's theme of the dissertation selected is highly important in regard with the implementation of inclusive education not only in Philippines, but all over the world. As she states in the dissertation the topic is not adequately described in the current academic literature in Philippines. Lynette, being a professional in teaching primary school children, displays a deep understanding of the research problem and overall context of the situation in Philippines and internationally.

Lynette set clear research aims, which she was able to operationalize. Explanation of the topic was created with succinct justification using the relevant and actual literature.

By thorough review of the relevant literature she systematically analysed and by all main variables and arguments identification, she demonstrated strong academic skills. Her critical evaluation is firmly linked to justification and methodology used.

**Design of project– research questions and methodology:**

Lynette combined a mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) research design in a correct and a creative way. She demonstrates a very good understanding of the choice of methods and can discuss advantages and disadvantages of both.

Lynette conducted the research in her home country. From this reason she was in touch with one academic institution providing teacher training to pre – service teachers in Philippines and in her research she demonstrated a very active and creative approach. She used two main research methods; semi – structured interviews and a survey. Interviews were conducted with six informants. Three of them were students of special needs education major and three of them were students of general education major. The survey was based on adapted version of

the Teachers' Attitudes towards Inclusive Education Scale by Saloviita (2015).

**Data analysis and Presentation:**

Thematic analysis was used in the qualitative part of the study. The method for analyzing data, the dilemmas that are connected to it and ethical considerations are well illustrated. In the quantitative part of the study Lynette employed statistic method and she used two way t-test to compare & indicate a more positive or more negative attitude towards inclusion. I find the analysis as appropriate and correct. Data presentation was precise and well-structured.

**Structure, communication, and presentation:**

The work has a clear and cohesive structure. It is very well presented with accurate citations and bibliography. Lynette discussed strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the approach she has chosen. The interpretation of data in Conclusion is provided carefully due to low number of respondents. The author put emphases not to generalize her findings.

Lynette discussed individual parts of the dissertation during the process of writing. She has reflected my comments and every time we met was prepared for the consultation.

**Overall comments:**

Lynette has submitted an *excellent* thesis. The theme selected is very actual and important. The work is well written with a proper use of academic language. She demonstrates broad theoretical understanding of the subject area and is able to discuss her contribution in relation to the development of the subject and the latest research.

**Points / Questions for the Viva:**

- Mapping the situation in a single institutional setting is not representative enough for all the country. It is thus difficult to make any conclusion from the study & is also very possible that the situation in the studied field could vary among the institutions.
- Could you please summarize your research findings in terms of what you have learnt from conducting the mixed method research design? What was the most important according to you; what would you highlight?
- In case you would lead a similar research project in the future what kind of research methods would you use? Would you use the same methods?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Marker's Name:** PhDr. Jana Stará, Ph.D.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Marker's Comments:**

The student approves very good orientation in the topic area. The work brings number of information and results of the contemporary research findings from Philippines and other countries literature. The references and quoting are quite well documented; self-originated work is separated from other people's work. Student is able to compare and interpret data from different sources and her own research.

She uses large number of relevant literature and frame the topic of the work by sufficient context and research findings. Her exploratory research employs a mixed-methods approach to understand the perceptions of pre-service general- and special-education student-teachers towards the inclusion of CSN.

These challenging approaches bring the results that enable to understand the perceptions of Philippines pre-service general- and special-education student-teachers towards the inclusion.

I wonder if the students can during the advocacy say more (be concrete) about the desirable general-education curriculum that would allow for more appropriate and sufficient training for teaching CSN.

**AGREED MARK:**

(All Grades are provisional and Subject to Confirmation by the Board of Examiners and by Senate)