

## Dissertation evaluation

**Title of dissertation:** A qualitative study of itinerant specialist support for the inclusion of preschoolers with disabilities in the Czech Republic

**Author of dissertation:** Soo Hoon Lee

**Evaluator:** PhDr. Iva Strnadová, Ph.D.

The accessibility of specialist support is one of the key elements of successful inclusion. I consider the focus on itinerant specialist teachers and their role in the process of inclusion as well-chosen.

You demonstrate in your submitted dissertation the ability of sophisticated reflection of reviewed literature based on your practice. Well done!

The key terms and concepts are well described, though I would like to hear your voice more in subchapter 1.1 which tends to be rather a summary of quotations on inclusion based on one source only.

The research questions are well designed and the methodology appropriately chosen. The idea of combining the semi-structured interviews with a questionnaire survey is suitable for the purpose of your dissertation.

Your sampling strategy of interview participants could serve as a model for other researchers. The total sample of eight itinerant specialists and eight preschool teachers is sufficient. The number of returned questionnaires was only 15 out of 30. *What would be the ways to encourage participants to return the filled-in questionnaires?*

I appreciate that the results presented in chapter four are arranged in synoptic tables including the comments and possible explanations of data. Moreover the quotations of preschool teachers and itinerant specialists are well used in order to provide better understanding of studied issue.

The subchapter 4.3.1 Legislation provision would be more suitable in chapter one and not as part of data analysis.

*Suggestion for the viva: Explain the choice of coding the data with focus on coming out with themes (page 43) used for analyzing the interviews and questionnaires. What were the advantages and disadvantages of your approach?*

You have fully justified your conclusions in chapter six including suggestions for the future practice.

The suggestions for improvements:

- ❖ The translation of the questionnaires contains some misleading terms. For example “Otázky pro rozhovor s učitelem odborníkem” is unfortunate one – does it mean that not all teachers are professionals? The same applies for the heading “Interview questions – preschool teachers” being translated as “Otázky pro rozhovor s předškolním učitelem”. (see Appendices K and M) I am fully aware that you do not speak Czech; however these mistakes could have been solved by proof reading by a Czech native speaker working in the field of education and also by piloting the semi-structured interview. Another unfortunate translations are e.g., “mainstream” translated as “tradiční”, “children with disabilities” as “handicapované děti”, “inclusion” as “zahrnování”, etc. (see Appendix C)

Recommendations for the viva:

- ❖ *One of your recommendations for future practice is that the research should focus on selecting appropriate evaluative measures of itinerant specialist support (page 94). Please, provide examples of the methods you would personally find suitable for the above mentioned purpose.*

I recommend the dissertation to be accepted to the viva.

**Evaluation: 2**

Prague, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008



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