



Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Xuan Mai Phamová

Title: EU Development Aid: Idealism or Pragmatism?

Programme/year: MV 2020

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/external assessor): Kristián Földes

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	10	10
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	30	26
	Methodology, analysis, argument	40	38
<i>Total</i>		80	74
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	10	8
	Style	5	5
	Formal requirements	5	5
<i>Total</i>		20	18
TOTAL		100	92



Evaluation

Major criteria:

The author has chosen a very current topic as a research area, and thanks to the choice of a qualitative method, she contributes to the academic debate with an ambitious piece.

In terms of theoretical grounding, the author introduced the theory of constructivism as a focal theory. We might consider the absence of leading authors of constructivism within citations as a minor shortcoming. As the focus is on language, I would prefer a mention of post-structuralism as an alternative approach.

The research question is formulated clearly and directly. In terms of conceptualization and operationalization, the author did a quality job, while in the appendices more detailed information on the operationalization of motives is provided.

The chosen method of motive analysis of the actors has an unusual impression in the field examined mainly by quantitative methods, which increases the level of this thesis as well. With this approach, the author also expanded the current continental debate of discursive analyzes of political leaders.

The conclusions of the thesis also present the possible direction of future research, which could reveal in more detail the motives of individual actors and contribute to a greater degree of generalization of the resulting outputs. The relevance of the research is reduced to a lesser extent by the fact that the character of the conclusions was influenced by the absence of identified indicators of some of the researched motifs. The conclusions of the thesis also reveal findings that are different from the majority normative understanding of the motivation of the EU in the field of development aid.

Minor criteria:

The author's work corresponds to the expected criteria of writing final theses both from a formal and stylistic point of view.



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Overall evaluation:

As for the overall evaluation, the author meets the expectations for research at the second level of study at a high-quality level and therefore I recommend the work to defend with the final grade A.

Suggested grade: A

Signature:

Kristian Foldes