

Dissertation marking and feedback sheet

Programme: Erasmus Mundus MA/Mgr. in Special and Inclusive Education

Module: Dissertation

Module code: ERM030L003S

Student Name: Yun-Ya Huang

Student Number:

VIVA 11.12.2013

1st Marker's name: *PhDr. Pavlína Šumníková, PhD.*

Use (i.e. exploration and discussion) of literature/evidence

Yun-Ya uses the literature to build an argument and advance the field. Yun-Ya works with importance of influence of parental participation on pupils with autism spectrum disorder.

She shows understanding of and command over the most relevant literature about definitions and features of autism spectrum disorder, definitions of parental participation, significance of parental participation, and barriers of social relationship for children with autism spectrum disorder and peers' social interaction for children with autism spectrum disorder. She synthesizes the literature and integrates literature from other fields.

Yun-Ya understands of relevant literature and key concepts. The work is structured logically and written comprehensively and it is illustrated professionally with a clear outline.

In the conclusion, she provides adequate coverage of the literature.

Design of project– research question or hypothesis, and methodology

Yun-Ya' research methodology is based on interpretivism research and qualitative research. Her data-gathering tool is interview. She discusses why method was chosen and describes advantages and disadvantages.

Yun-Ya is interested in finding out contemporary parents' expectations and individuals' experiences. She works with three parents and she develops key three themes and six subthemes (the influence of parental involvement, the difficulties parents face, barriers to parent involvement, parents' experiences, expectation and concerns, the barriers of social interactions of children with autism spectrum disorder). However, the description of structure of an interview is missing.

She collaborated with a translator for communication with them and she used audio records for further analysis.

Data analysis and Presentation

Data analysis is thorough, appropriate and correct. Yun-Ya develops, compares theories with answers of parents very well.

She presents data clearly and cleverly and discusses limitation of study.

Structure, communication, and presentation

The work is well-written, the structure is adequate, and the author discussed strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the study. The work has five parts: Introduction, Review of literature, research methodology, Data Analysis and Discussion and Evaluation and conclusion.

It focuses how the interviewee-parents feel parental participation on their children with autism spectrum disorder.

Overall comments (including any areas for further improvement):

This study "The Influence of Parental Participation on Pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder" of Yun-Ya is structured logically and written comprehensively, it is illustrated professionally with a clear outline.

I agree with Yun-Ya: "*The work is based on qualitative methodology as a framework to investigate the importance of parental involvement for children concerning the social skills, daily living skills and academic improvement. Although the number of parent participants is relatively small, there is direct evidence of positive influence of parental involvement.*" (p. 45)

My question is:

What would you predict next steps of your eventual new research?

2nd Marker's Name: Mgr. Šárka Káňová

2nd Marker's Comments:

The thesis deals with the theme of the parental involvement and the influence on children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The author set out main research objectives, that were the following: (a) to probe social and affective factors that might affect the autistic children (b) to encourage parents who have children with ASD to involve in activities to increase children's social initiations, social interactions and social skills (c) to investigate the barriers of social interactions of children with ASD in schools and at home and that, in my opinion, were fulfilled very well. The chosen theme I consider to be very actual and requiring constant reflection. I find the theme as relevant in regard with Special and Inclusive Education Study programme.

In the theoretical part, the author describes in great details the important aspects related to the selected topic. The method, through which the conceptual framework and definitions of key concepts was carried out is introduced and is very precise. The author draws on available literature containing information from a wide to narrow perspective of the research problem and related phenomena (definitions and features of ASD, definitions of parental participation, barriers of social relationship for children with ASD and Peers' social interactions intervention for children with ASD). I appreciate the author's reduction of relatively extensive problematic and efforts to address theoretical concepts directly related to the research topic focus of the work, which fulfil the requirement of proportionality between the theoretical and the practical part.

The author defines the methodology used, the research aim, which is then conceptualized into the central themes, respectively domains. She also characterizes a research design, research methods (in depths semi-structured interviews), the research sample and the process of sampling, data collection, approaches to data analysis and ethical considerations.

Coherence between different chapters of the work is very good. Text is suitably

complemented by annexes, which conducted the survey findings clear and illustrated the context of the whole research work. The author demonstrated ability to work systematically with literature, to which the text refers to and in a manner consistent with bibliographic standards.

Despite the fact that the findings can not be generalized, the presented research reveals interesting findings, which in general confirm the author's initial assumptions. The conclusions are formulated succinctly, giving the recommendations that emerged from the research study. The results would be useful to disseminate to the wider public. The thesis presented is precisely written, well structured and is unique of its kind.

Comments/Questions:

- Could you please summarize your research findings in terms of what you have learnt from conducting the qualitative research strategy? What was the most important according to you: What would you highlight?
- Can you compare your research topics with your experience or researches from Taiwan?

Agreed mark : excellent