

G3 Linguistics/Language Didactics Thesis Opponent Guidelines

1. Begin by briefly summarising your peer's essay, section by section. Use a maximum of 5 minutes for this of the ca 20 minutes you have at your disposal.

2. Then, examine the paper critically and answer the following questions as you evaluate it:
 - Does the title/subtitle and the abstract describe/reflect the content of the essay?
 - Is the essay well structured, i.e. is the division into sections and sub-sections optimal, and presented in a logical order?
 - Is there a clear statement of the purpose/aim of the paper?
 - Are the research questions clearly formulated and relevant?
 - Has the primary material been optimally selected and adequately presented?
 - Is the method used appropriate and adequately described? Are there things in the investigation that should/could have been done differently?
 - Is previous research on the topic (secondary sources) presented in a clear way? Does it give sufficient background to the topic?
 - Is the analysis and discussion of the results conducted in a clear and logical manner? Are the results clearly discussed, exemplified and connected to the findings? Are the tables, figures and charts, if any, clear and well arranged? Are the calculations correct?
 - Are the author's conclusions justified on the basis of the presented results and discussion?
 - Have all the research questions been answered properly?
 - Are there unclear or misleading passages? Ask for clarification, if need be!
 - Is the list of references presented correctly?
 - Are there errors of style or language? Focus only on those errors that might cause potential misinterpretations, lead to faulty assumptions or conclusions. All other minor or major language/spelling errors found in the essay must be printed out and handed over to the respondent after the discussion of each essay.

Based on these and other points, feel free to ask for clarifications, explanations, etc., as well as make suggestions for improvement. Remember to allow the respondent time to think and respond.

3. Conclude by summarizing the essay's main weaknesses and its main achievements, giving examples of both. Do not be afraid to criticise. Your criticism should, however, be constructive, fair and balanced.

GOOD LUCK! ☺