

La Sapienza

Revisione esterna dottorandi 34° ciclo

SKENDO IRENA

Autenticità z oryginałem

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## Evaluation form for PhD dissertation

Evaluation form

Title of the thesis

Corpus-Assisted Analysis of the Language of Tourism in Albanian English

Affiliation of the reviewer CHIARA DEGANO Università di Roma Tre

Report

With minor revisions the thesis can be admitted for defence in front of a national evaluation board. It tackles tourism in Albania, from a multidisciplinary perspective, including a focus on the language of travel guides, which in the case at issue are an example of English as a Lingua Franca. The first part of the thesis contextualizes tourism in Albania, providing a socio-historical account of the conditions that have delayed its development and of recent policies that have fostered it, envisaging a leading role for the sector in national economy. Here extensive reference is made to government documents and literature from different backgrounds, which are external to linguistics. As far as linguistics is concerned the thesis relies on the theoretical frame of ELF, which is cursorily introduced, passing then to consider the case of ELF in Albania. Also Corpus linguistics is adequately introduced, thus accounting for the methodological component of the research. The revisions should address the following issues: 1) As is, the theoretical frame of ELF looks somewhat detached from the corpus analysis. The fact that the travel guides are written in ELF is just mentioned, but only occasionally is a relation drawn between the findings and their being examples of ELF (e.g. gem dishes, wild dishes). Adding a section to the analysis dealing specifically with that would improve the thesis' internal coherence. The examples that are currently interspersed might be moved there, adding also some other examples (such as the syntax of an excerpt quoted on page 144, the use of the term 'agrotourism') and any other interesting cases. Furthermore, it should be better specified if all the travel guide books in the corpus are translations of Albanian texts or written in ELF by non-native speakers. 2) The analysis would benefit from a greater sense of direction. The reader should know beforehand what order and

criterion is followed. 3) The layout of the examples can be improved by separating concordance lines from longer excerpts (the latter should also be numbered and graphically separated from the body of the text). Furthermore, a more consistent way of reporting concordance output should be found (screenshots of the sole Keyword in context is preferable. When they are reported as text, the layout is completely lost, to the detriment of readability and pattern observation. In that case a table would help, with the node word in a central column and context in the right and left columns respectively.) 4) Further effort should be made to link the recommendations in chapter five to the part of the research from which they derive, so as to ward off the risk that they might sound as mere common-sense remarks. If they derive from the interviews, this should be emphasized, thus contributing at the same time to justify the rationale for the interviews (i.e. why they were included in the research design, and what specific contribution they have made).

Presentation and clarity

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The reviewer should be able to read the text without difficulty. This implies that the dissertation is clear and 'user friendly', without duplications or repetitions.

Evaluation file (optional)

Integration and coherence

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The manuscript should present logical and rational links between different parts of the thesis.

Introduction to scientific background

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The text should contain a satisfactory introduction to the scientific background which is relevant to the research, preparing the reader to the exposition of the problem.

Review of relevant literature

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The candidate must have a detailed knowledge of original sources, have a thorough knowledge of the field, and understand the main theoretical and methodological issues.

Statement of research problem

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

A clear statement of the research problem should be made, together with specific hypotheses, predictions, or questions which the research is designed to address.

Originality

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The research must be the candidate's own work. The degree of independence may vary according to the research topic.

Contribution to knowledge and scientific relevance

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The dissertation should be substantial enough to be able to form the basis of two articles on refereed journal, a book or research monograph.

Mastery of the English language

None  Poor  Average  Good  Excellent

The candidate must be proficient in written English and show mastery of appropriate scientific/technical language.

A major goal of the review process is to evaluate if the present version of the thesis is:

- 1) adequate as is
- 2) require minor revision
- 3) require major revision

for admission of the candidate to the defense of the work in front of a national evaluation board.

Accept as is  Minor revision  Major revision