La Sapienza

**Revisione esterna tesi dott. SOPHIE EYSSETTE (37 ciclo)**

**EYSSETTE SOPHIE CAROLINE**

# Evaluation form for PhD dissertation

**Evaluation form**

Title of the thesis

Taboo Language and Incest in the French and British press (2017-2022), a cross-linguistic corpus-assisted discourse analysis

Affiliation of the reviewer

Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

Report

This is a fantastic PhD on a less studied, gobal issue. The PhD is presented clearly, and it is definitively superior work. The contextualisation and literature review are very detailed but, in my view, quite masterfully presented. They were interesting, easy to follow, well-researched and clear.

The rigorous nature of the method is clear. They candidate has reflected on the affordances and weaknesses of CADS, the falaibality of data defined by search terms, and the need for searching for absence and the unsearchable. This is a critical question in contemporary CADS and one to which the candidate has presented a credible and innovative response. The use of detailed corpus analysis, case study, and search term refining to look for absence is an ambitious PhD in one language, let alone two.

Overall, the findings shed light on discourses and representations of incest, which is valuable. The method is particularly illuminating, as it offers an applicable pathway for searching for absence.

I edit a book series in corpus linguistics, and as part of my review, I asked myself whether this would be publishable as part of that series. The answer is yes. I do have some suggestions for the author that they may consider when moving towards publishing.

First, the contrastive facet of the study seems a little under discussed. Both in terms of methods and analysis. For the former, I think it would be good to have more comparative literature, studies of culture, and research on languages other than English. I think issues of comparability could be interrogated in greater depth and situated from cultural perspective. For example, the choice fo reference corpora hamper the comparison somewhat, as the candidate recognises themselves. This is not an unusual choice however, as comparable corpora are hard to access for reference corpora. So, I emphasise. It would be worth interrogating the implications of thse choices in greater depth.

For the analysis and discussion, the interpretation would also speak at a higher level about culture and language. The author made a choice to focus more on the topic, incest, which makes sense. So this is not critique exactly, rather, I think that if you add more to this

contrastive dimension, it would really advance the triangulation element of the research.

At a textual level, the author presents many definitions, sometimes a bit descriptively, throughout the PhD. The lists of definitions can sometimes lack coherence and disrupt the narrative. So, in publishing this, try to present the definitions in a more critical and integrated way. This will help keep the focus on narrative.

Neither of these critiques are to say the quality of the PhD is questionable. It is a great piece of work and I look forward to hearing more from this researcher in the future.
Confidential report (it will not be shown to the candidate)

Evaluation file (optional)

Presentation and clarity

[ ] None     [ ] Poor     [ ] Average     [ ] Good     [X] 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.

Integration and coherence

[ ] None     [ ] Poor     [ ] Average     [ ] Good     [X] Excellent

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

Introduction to scientific background

[ ] None     [ ] Poor     [ ] Average     [ ] Good     [X] 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     [X] 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　　[X] 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　　[X] 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　　[X] 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　　[X] Excellent

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

The thesis can be considered for a 'cum laude' award

[X] Yes　　[ ] No

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.

[X] Accept as is　　[ ] Minor revision　　[ ] Major revision

Date: 12/21/2024

Reviewer: Curry Niall

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