

Reviewer's opinion
on the doctoral dissertation titled
"The Long-Term Impact of Learner-Learner Interaction on L2 English Development"
written and submitted by Feisal Aziez

Reviewer: Dr. Zoltán Poór associate professor, University of Pannonia

The research projects – that Mr. Aziez refers to as studies in the Abstract – focus on peer – i.e. learner-to-learner – interactions carried out in English at an Islamic boarding school in Indonesia.

The particular research and the author's report on it – in the form of this particular doctoral dissertation – might help the educational professionals in Indonesia understand the current situation in terms of peer-based language improvement of boarding school students and might provide the international audience with the chance of an insight into this very special educational culture.

40-pages in Chapter 1 are related to the background literature the candidate consulted.

- Courtesy to the rich selection of references, the author provides the reader with a broad view on the system of pesantrens in general and with particular information on language learning at these institutions.
- Detailed introduction is elaborated in terms of the interaction in second language acquisition by focusing on the components of interactions, the interlocutor characteristics and the role of context. The methods in interactional studies have been paid attention, too. Mr. Aziez refers to and recites from published sources at a high level of professionalism.
- I find the subchapter on dynamic usage-based perspective, i.e. DUB very interesting and important at the same time.
- I was also fascinated by reading the unit on the issues of pidginization and second language acquisition, i.e. SLA.
- The 5-page-long summary of the literary overview and the formulation of the 4 research questions lay the foundations of the project and guarantee a dissertation of a high standard.

Chapter 2 is devoted to the research methods applied by the candidate.

- When reading the nearly 23-page-long chapter one learns about the way the research was designed (2.1.), its context in details (2.2.), the participants (2.3.) and the procedures (2.4.).
- As for the procedures, learners' interactions (2.4.1.), their individual differences (2.4.2.) including their language learning histories, motivations, scholastic aptitudes are in focus.
- The L2 development (2.4.3.) and the pidginization (2.4.4.) procedures are examined, too.
- Further analyses are made on the main procedures listed above.
- The Summary (2.6.) provides the reader with the conclusions of the 4 studies or rather research projects that the candidate carried out in the pesantren context.

Chapter 3 demonstrates the results of the research.

- The outcomes of the projects are presented in a highly professional way with references to related literature from time to time.
- This nearly 19-page-long unit ends in a summary that leads to the next 2 chapters – the Discussion and the Conclusion.

In Chapter 4 ten pages are devoted to the interpretation of the research outcomes focusing on learners' interactions, their individual differences, the L2 development and the issue of pidginization.

- I find it great that this chapter is full of references to related literature. It helps the author prove his findings and justify his statements.

The conclusions the candidate makes in the bit more than 6-page-long Chapter 5, help him ...

- ... sum up what he has learnt from the 4 studies / research projects,
- ... understand the limitations,
- ... relate the outcomes to the broader professional context – with relevant references again –
- ... and outline the future directions for himself.

The 22-page long list of references proves how detailed Mr. Aziez's research on related literature was. It is an invaluable selection of all those academic pieces that are worth consulting when doing a research of the kind.

Among the Appendices one can find the Language History Questionnaire (Appendix A), samples of consent forms (Appendix B), samples of learners' reflection on motivation (Appendix C), writing samples (Appendix D) and excerpts of the vocabulary book (Appendix E).

The Appendices help us understand more about the particular context of education in pesantrens in Indonesia.

I am really pleased to learn that Mr. Aziez benefited from my opinion on the preliminary version of his work and improved it to the extent he thought it was relevant.

All in all, it is a valuable piece of work that deserves the attention of the academic community.

It is worth planning to get it published in the form of a book available not only for the professional audience in Indonesia but overseas, too.

Questions to the Candidate:

1. What areas of Applied Linguistics and/or Modern Languages Education do you intend to study and carry out a research project in the future and why?
2. What aspects of professional expertise do you plan to master in the future and why?

To what extent would you relate to and cooperate with the academic community of professors and fellow PhD-students you have worked together with at the University of Pannonia?

Veszprém, May 15th, 2021.



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