

**REPORT BY DAVID SINGLETON ON THE DOCTORAL THESIS OF MS
MAGDALENA TRINDER "AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INFLUENCE OF
LEVEL OF EXTROVERSION, LOCUS OF CONTROL AND GENDER ON
LISTENING AND READING POOFICIENCY IN SECOND LANGUAGE
ACQUISITION"**

Overall judgment

The thesis is of a very high standard, and the candidate has demonstrated that she merits admission to the doctoral degree.

Comments on individual sections of the thesis

Introduction

The Introduction sets out the broad rationale of the thesis and makes specific mention of the specific issues examined by the research on which it is based: the question of gender differences in second language acquisition, the influence of extroversion/introversion on second language proficiency and the role played by Locus of Control in relation to second language outcomes.

Chapter 1

The opening chapter provides a wide-ranging overview of research relating to the various terms and concepts relevant to the aspects of the field of second language acquisition studies which are dealt with by the thesis. It discusses first the notion of second language acquisition itself, and then gives attention to the concepts of gender, extroversion and Locus Control. The chapter subsequently moves on to give an account of the history of language acquisition studies, starting with behaviourism, nativism and the "middle way", and then homing in on some major developments specific to second language acquisition research, such as the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis, Error Analysis, Krashen's hypotheses, the debate about the contribution of interaction and output, the Noticing Hypothesis and the Competition Model. This discussion is by and large in line with the consensual perspectives to be found in the relevant research literature.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 reviews in a wide-ranging and generally well-informed manner recent investigation and thinking relative to individual factors influencing second language acquisition. It includes sections on sociocultural influences, psychological influences, cognitive influences and physical influences. The chapter is well put together and

intelligently written; it represents a considerable and laudable effort of research and reflection. It does not court controversy in its conclusions but provides a richly informative backdrop against which to set out the candidate's own empirical study.

Chapter 3

The third chapter describes the methodological components of the research methodology employed in the empirical study, both quantitative and qualitative. The shape of the research approach as it emerges from the description comes across as fit for purpose. This chapter also presents and discusses the results of the study. The quantitative dimension of the results must have been very disheartening for the candidate, inasmuch as none of her hypotheses received quantitative support. On the other hand, as the saying used to go in Cambridge, a null result is also a result! With regard to the qualitative aspect of the results section, this, for the present examiner, constitutes the most interesting part of the thesis. The case studies put before the reader are often fascinating in themselves, and the candidate's commentary on them consistently shows sensitivity and intellectual acuteness.

Chapter 4

The final chapter summarizes the ground covered by the thesis, reviews the results and adverts to some possible implications that perhaps might be investigated further.

Conclusions

The conclusions re-emphasize the rather *inconclusive* nature of what has been found and points to some interesting ways in which the research might be expanded and extended.

Comments on organization and presentation

The organization and general coherence of the thesis are difficult to fault. With regard to presentation, the writing is consistently clear, and the level of English expression is on the whole very high.

Signed *D.M. Singleton* Date *June 20, 2016*
Prof D.M. Singleton