

Opponent's Report on the Doctoral Thesis

Doctoral student's name(s) and surname	Amina Lami Akorede, MA	
Degree programme	P 8206 Visual Arts	
Degree course	8206V102 Multimedia and Design	
Mode of study	Full-time	Acad. Year 2017/2018
Thesis Title	EXPLORING ANIMATION FILM IN A POPULAR AFRICAN FOLKLORE, THROUGH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY A SELECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS IN NIGERIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC	
Supervisor	Prof. akad. mal. Ondrej Slivka, ArtD.	
Opponent report written by	prof. Mgr. Peter Štarchoň, PhD.	

The importance of the topic

The topic of the dissertation thesis can be considered as a serious challenge of creating an animation movie with ambitious educational purpose oriented on cultural understanding and exchange between Nigeria and Czech Republic. The approach of doctoral student towards the topic and the very interesting topic itself can be seen as innovative and original. Additionally, it has a practical potential as it is oriented on intercultural education and on supporting and disseminating of folklore motives in present days.

The objective and structure of the dissertation thesis

The main objective of the dissertation work is not strictly defined, but visible through the particular objectives defined in chapter 3. Developing an animation film from popular folktales with educational value can be considered as the main and the most important objective. One of the additional aims was to promote intercultural sensitivity among the teens of both countries towards future world peace. Reflecting this aspect, it is possible to consider objectives of the dissertation thesis as significant (although the planned scientific results of the work are not clearly visible) and, in general, they were achieved and it is possible to state that the author in an appropriate way solves the topic of the work. Although the objectives are broadly set and encompass particular aspects of solved topic, their dividing into primary objective and secondary objectives would be welcomed.

Concerning the structure, the dissertation thesis is logically divided into six parts plus additional supplements as Bibliography and Appendices. After the first part – Introduction, that is oriented on background of the study, problem statement, objectives and particular research questions, the theoretical backgrounds based on literature reviews (Part II) follows. The methodology is described in part III, data presentation and results in part IV, and finally findings and discussion are following – part V. A very short conclusions are closing the dissertation thesis. It is obvious that the doctoral student was

trying to cover all particular fields of her scientific research. She is interested in chosen topic and proved a wide range of knowledge, competence and capability to incorporate her own experience into scientific work. Amina Lami Akorede demonstrated the knowledge evident in the development of methodology of work, which also determines its structure. The work is written in an understandable and logical way and the dissertation thesis in an appropriate way solves the topic.

The methodology and scientific methods

The methodology applied by the author seems to be relevant to the objectives of the study as it implements secondary as well as primary researches. Although the author didn't explicitly define traditional scientific methods as analysis, synthesis, inductions and deductions, there were obviously used. Particular scientific methods should be more explained in this way. The dissertation thesis consists of theoretical and analytical parts plus developed animation film. It can be said that theoretical background based on secondary information represents an integral part of the thesis. Secondary research was based on relevant and different sources (see Bibliography). Minor comment is concerning the range of the relevant theoretical background of the researched topic.

In general, the holistic approach in scientific work was applied. Concerning empirical research the author decided to apply primary research too. Considering used hypothesis of the study, it may be replaced by scientific question(s) since the limitations of quantitative primary research its verification is hardly feasible. Number of respondents and the sample size definition might be considered. Despite the limits of the research, results might be relevant as the supporting background and the starting point of the further research.

Scientific contribution and practical applications

These results can be considered as a stimulus for further research to obtain more specific and relevant information about future development of (not only) animated films. Additionally, some parts of the dissertation thesis supported by synthesis and reflecting current state of knowledge oriented on intercultural communication and sensitivity can be used as a relevant source of information in particular fields.

I appreciate that the author did not avoid sensitive issues concerning the intercultural communications and differences between selected cultures and in this way she was able to cover all aspects of the solved topic.

The focus on liaison between intercultural communications' theoretical background and selected aspects of developing animated film based on folklore motives and oriented on communication sensitivity can be also considered as one of the contributions of presented work, although the emphasis on intercultural communication would be awaited. And finally, the animated film as a result of her doctoral study is giving practically oriented examples how to implement traditions into a real life. Moreover, selected parts of the

dissertation thesis based on synthesis are reflecting current state of knowledge oriented on selected areas of and can be used as a relevant source of information in particular fields. It is evident that the results of the dissertation thesis are based on the author's own experiences that are combined with the results of her scientific work. Hope the future research will continue by more representative primary researches or by developing more films for educational purposes.

Unfortunately, all the important results and recommendations are presented in a limited area of two pages and the description prevails. In this way deeper insights and wider discussion would be welcomed.

Questions for Discussion

I would like Amina Lami Akorede to answer the following questions as a starting point for the discussion:

1. Briefly describe particular scientific methods used in the dissertation thesis.
2. What are your plans for the future when speaking about the results of your study? Will you continue with developing animated films with the similar backgrounds?
3. What are the practical impacts and consequences of your research?

Conclusion

The work, in general, fulfils demanded standards, it can be considered as a starting point for future research and the practice as well. Amina Lami Akorede proved a wide range of theoretical knowledge and practical skills and presented her competence and ability of scientific work.

I recommend Amina Lami Akorede to defend the dissertation thesis and – in the case of successful defence – to be awarded the academic degree “Philosophiae doctor” – PhD. in the degree programme Visual Arts, degree course Multimedia and Design.

Zlín, June 1, 2018

Peter Štarchoň