

Zoi Dimopoulou

Feedback on coursework provided by Professor Paul Dowling

The critical review is a very thoughtful piece that engages the paper in an interesting way, relating it to a wider discourse on action research, but still paying attention to the methodological issues that arise in the research and raising relevant questions about it. One issue that could have been mentioned, but was not, is the initial motivation for the study, which was the lack of motivation on the part of students whose level of English was such that they were finding the course uninspiring. Another issue was the unequal distribution of responsibilities of the researchers insofar as only one of them would be recruiting the work for the purposes of doctoral research.

The proposal evidences, at this level, a sophisticated understanding of a range of methodological issues in presenting an informed and well-argued case for the study and for the approach to be adopted. In terms of the literature review, I could have asked for rather more attention to be given to methodological issues arising in the research reviewed (more than the two or three required), but methodological knowledge is clearly in evidence elsewhere in the proposal and in the other item of coursework.

Whilst there has been some deviation from the remit for the coursework, these two items constitute an outstanding submission for this course. As well as demonstrating methodological knowledge and understanding, they also exhibit a firm grasp of the nature of academic argument and are, in more general terms, very well written.