

Name of the student:	Karolina Kucerova
Title of the thesis:	Third Culture Kids on Navigating Cultural Identities
Reviewer:	Karolina Czerska-Shaw (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The literature review is solid, and it is clear that the author has a good grasp of the concepts and terms they are using. The research question is somewhat broad and linguistically unclear: How do Spanish adult TCKs reflect **they** navigated cultural identities during their expatriation in formative years? It is not clear whether they should be their, or how they reflect on how they navigated.. This is a small linguistic difference but with rather big analytical consequences.
The objectives are clear.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The research design uses quite interesting theoretical models of acculturation, although there seems to be a slight methodological flaw – the models pertain rather to acculturation (or adjustment, integration) of adult or self-reflective individuals, whereas the student is focusing on the developmental process in early childhood and formative years, which are governed by their own laws. The student justifies using these models as ‘adult experiences of navigating cultural identity can mirror childhood identity formation’, but, whilst I’m not a psychologist, I wonder if this is really the case. Another challenge is asking adult individuals to reflect on their former selves without taking into consideration that memory is a reflection of oneself as seen through one’s eyes now – it is cognitively quite hard to reflect on one’s past (especially of childhood) without the experience one had later on, and this is especially true of identity. A greater reflection on the limitations (or complexities) of such research was missing.

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The conclusions were quite coherent and clear, although one thing that is interesting in the TCK literature is the aspect of the third culture, ie the ‘new, hybrid, ‘other’ space that is unique, so neither the host nor the home culture, but the ‘transnational’ culture. There was no inquiry of this in the thesis, which was a shame.

It would have been interesting to know how the common variable amongst the respondents – ie home country of Spain was significant in the study. What other variables could have influenced the respondents’ identity-making process? Ie length of stay, location of stay, etc.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The thesis is well-written and follows the academic conventions.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

(strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The thesis shows a solid understanding of the terms and concepts associated with identity-building in mobility and TCKs, and there was a solid attempt to operationalise these terms using theoretical models. The empirical section was interesting although somewhat thin (in terms of the size of the sample and depth of analysis), but overall the thesis added to the emerging literature in the field.

Grade (A-F)	B – UPF scale: 8 Kraków scale 4.5
Date	Signature
28/06/2024	