



LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN MULTILINGUAL SETTINGS/ ADQUISICIÓN DE LENGUAS EN CONTEXTOS MULTILINGÜES

GUIDELINES MA THESIS (Trabajo Fin de Máster)

Students in the MA program must prepare an MA thesis, which will be publicly defended. The main aim of the MA thesis is to show that the student has obtained the necessary skills to carry out research by employing the methods/techniques provided in the different courses that comprise the program.

The MA thesis

Content

The study could be theoretical + empirical (data collection), just theoretical or a didactic proposal. In the first type of thesis, the study should include research questions, grounded in the subject chosen, and a quantitative, qualitative or mixed approach to the analysis of the empirical data collected. If the thesis is theoretical, it should include a critical revision of a specific topic approved by the supervisor. The didactic proposal should also be theoretically motivated and may or may not be implemented. The supervisor will guide the candidate throughout the process whatever the type of MA thesis chosen.

Formal characteristics

- The text should be preceded by a non-plagiarism statement (see below).
- Length: About 50-60 pages, bibliography and appendices excluded. The text should be double-spaced and in font Times New Roman 12.
- 2.5 in all margins
- Numbered footnotes (only to be used if absolutely necessary)
- Organization of the thesis
 - o Cover page: title, student's name, supervisor's name, MA program and academic year of the defence.
 - o Table of contents
 - o Abstract (100-200 words) followed by a maximum of 10 key words
 - o Introduction to the topic
 - o Literature review
 - o Research questions
 - o Methodology (in experimental theses): participants, materials, procedure
 - o Results
 - o Discussion
 - o Conclusion
 - o List of references
 - o Appendices
- Format for references

Summary of in-text citations following the APA style:

- A work by two authors: Name both authors in parentheses each time you cite the work.

Use the word “and” between the authors’ names within the text and use the ampersand (&) within the parentheses.

Research by Wegener and Petty (1994) supports

Research supports....(Wegener & Petty, 1994)

- A work by three or more authors: use the first author’s last name followed by “et al.”

(Kernis et al., 1993)

Kernis et al. (1993) argued...

- Two or more works in the same parentheses: When your parenthetical citation includes two or more works, order them the same way they appear in the reference list, separated by a semi-colon. That means that they are in alphabetical, not chronological order.

(Berndt, 2002; Harlow, 1983)

- Authors with the same last name: To prevent confusion, use first initials with the last names.

(E. Johnson, 2001; L. Johnson, 1998)

- Two or more works by the same author in the same year: Use lower-case letters (a, b, c) with the year to order the entries in the reference list. Use lower-case letters with the year in the in-text citation as well.

Research by Berndt (1981a) illustrated that...

List of references in APA style

- Book (monograph):

Montrul, S. A. (2008). *Incomplete acquisition in bilingualism. Re-examining the age factor*. John Benjamins.

- Dissertation:

Anderson, B. (2002). *The fundamental equivalence of native and interlanguage grammars: Evidence from argument licensing and adjective position*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Indiana University, Bloomington (IN).

- Book (edited volume):

Brinton, D., Kagan, O., & Bauckus, S. (Eds.). (2008). *Heritage language education. A new field emerging*. Routledge.

- Chapter (in book):

Bullock, B. E., & Toribibio, A. J. (2009). Trying to hit a moving target: On the sociophonetics of code-switching. In L. Isurin, D. Winford, & K. de Bot (Eds.), *Multidisciplinary approaches to code switching* (pp. 189-206). John Benjamins.

- Article (in journal):

Grosjean, F. (1998). Studying bilinguals. Methodological and conceptual issues. *Bilingualism, Language and Cognition*, 1(2), 131-149.

- *For electronic journals, give the *doi* or the URL:

Brownlie, D. (2007). Toward effective poster presentations: An annotated bibliography. *European Journal of Marketing*, 41, 1245-1283. <https://doi.org/xxxxxxxxxxxx>

Wooldridge, M.B., & Shapka, J. (2012). Playing with technology: Mother-toddler interaction scores lower during play with electronic toys. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 33(5), 211-218. <https://www.xxxxxxx.xxx>

Public defence

The work has to be defended in front of a 3- member committee made up of Doctors from the program's teaching staff by 30th September of the corresponding academic year. It should have been handed in (in bound format and via email as a pdf document) to each of the members of the committee and to the MA coordinator at least 15 days before the date established for the defence.

During the defence, which will be public, the candidate will have a maximum of 20 minutes to present his/her work. Each of the members of the committee will ask questions/raise concerns for a maximum of 10 minutes per member. The candidate will then address the questions and/or concerns to the best of his/her knowledge and the members of the committee may request more clarifications. The presentation, for which the candidate may use a Power Point format, handouts or any other means s/he considers appropriate, will be done in English, the official language of the program.

The members of the committee will judge the sound theoretical basis of the study, its methodological design (if data have been collected), and the contributions of the study to the research area. Students are advised to stick to the time allotted for the oral presentation, as their capacity of synthesis is one of the elements the committee will judge.

Official MA program in
Language Acquisition in Multilingual Settings (LAMS)
Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

Non-Plagiarism Statement

This form must be completed, dated and signed and must be included at the beginning of each copy of the MA Thesis you submit for assessment.

<i>Name and surnames:</i>	
<i>MA Thesis title:</i>	
<i>Supervisor:</i>	

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT

- This MA Thesis that I am submitting for assessment is entirely my own work and I have written it completely by myself.
- I have not previously submitted this work or any version of it for assessment in any other program or institution.

- I have not used any other sources or resources than the ones mentioned.
- I have identified and included the source of all facts, ideas, opinions and viewpoints of others through in-text referencing and the relevant sources are all included in the list of references at the end of my work. Direct quotations from books, journal articles, internet sources or any other source are acknowledged and the sources cited are identified in the list of references.

I understand that plagiarism and copying are serious offences. In case of proof that this MA Thesis fails to comply with this declaration, either as negligence or as a deliberate act, I understand that the examiner has the right to exclude me from being assessed and consequently all research activities conducted for this course will be declared null and the MA Thesis will not be presented for public defence, thus obtaining the lowest qualification

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____