

Appendix B: Thesis Advisor's Interview

My name is X and I study a MA in the American University/Department of Applied Linguistics. In this interview I would like to ask some questions about your L2 BA students' writing of theses. I would like to ask you questions about your experiences of supervising such students. I am particularly interested in any difficulties you perceive in the conclusion section of L2 BA students writing a thesis.

First of all, can you tell me about how many L2 BA students you have supervised in the last two years (2005–2007)?

How many do you currently supervise?

Next I would like to ask you some general questions:

- 1) What is for you the hardest part of a thesis for your students to write? Why?
- 2) Do you have any requirement or a standard to follow when writing the conclusions chapter?
- 3) When your students write their chapter on conclusions, what do you ask them to include?
- 4) Can you tell me about any difficulties you have noticed in these students' (the students' you currently supervise) draft versions of their conclusion?
- 5) Do you see such difficulties in most or some of your L2 BA students' conclusions?

- 6) Now I am going to ask you about some specific types of possible difficulties:
 - Have you noticed difficulties in:
 - understanding the functions of the conclusions?
 - selecting content?
 - organisation of content?
 - showing appropriate stance (how writers position themselves)?
 - grammar? (Can you give an example or two?)
 - what do you think of the use of personal voice in writing?

- 7) We have discussed a number of problem areas. Which do you see as the most significant areas (and why)?
- 8) In your opinion, why do these problems occur?

Finally I have some other general questions.

- 9) Do you think your students are personally invested in their projects? Why? How so?
- 10) Do you think they are influenced in a way by your comments?
- 11) Do you think writing a thesis project helped your students to develop their academic writing? Why? How?
- 12) Do you think writing made your students grow professionally? Why?

Thank you for your help. Do you have questions you would like to ask me about this study?