

## REFEREE'S REVIEW

<b>Program:</b>	Management
<b>Student:</b>	Zhao Yuhang
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	Comparative Analysis of Advantages the Famous IT Companies and Their Impact on the Supply Chain Performance

<b>Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.</b> Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.	4			
<b>Structure and logic of the text flow.</b> Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.	5			
<b>Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.</b> Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.	5			
<b>Quality of data gathering and description.</b> Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.	4			
<b>Scientific aspect of the thesis.</b> Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.	5			
<b>Practical/applied nature of research.</b> Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.	5			
<b>Quality of thesis layout.</b> Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.	5			

Each item above is evaluated on the following scale, as applicable: 5 = the thesis meets all the requirements, 4 = the thesis meets almost all the requirements, 3 = a lot of the requirements are not met in the thesis, 2 = the thesis does not meet the requirements.

### Additional comments:

*Please, elaborate on the above mentioned criteria (about 250 words)*

### Additional comments:

The research presented in the paper is provided at a very good level, considering problem statement, research methodology, empirical part and overall paper logic and structure.

### Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis

The author has attempted to fill the gap in methodology development and practical application of companies' influence on supply chain performance and its implementation for modern companies. The scope of the research was adequately limited to the top 10 public IT companies from which allowed drawing valid and applicable conclusions.

The goals and objectives of the thesis are clearly stated. Although, the author could strengthen the justification of the topic choice by more clearly stating the gap in the existing research in the field.

### **Structure and logic of the text flow.**

The structure of the thesis is clear and fully reflects the logic of the thesis. It is easy to read and to comprehend the study. Theoretical and empirical parts are presented in a logical and coherent manner.

### **Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives**

The author developed the framework for the assessment of the IT companies' influence on the supply chain performance based on existing research and experts' opinion. The applicability of the suggested framework was demonstrated on 10 US public companies operating in IT industry. The choice of the methodology was thoroughly justified by the author.

### **Quality of data gathering and description**

Data collected is sufficient to solve the research problem of the study. The data is clearly and meaningfully presented in the thesis. At the same time, the author could present information about interviews and experts in more details – who were the interviewees, with what SC part they deal with (suppliers, buyers or others), what topics were covered etc.

### **Scientific aspect of the thesis.**

The author demonstrates a very high level of theoretical knowledge and an ability to develop it according to the study purposes. Methodology implemented in the thesis fully fits the objectives of the research.

### **Practical/applied nature of research.**

The research is very practical oriented. The thesis maybe of a great interest in business society. The reason is that the suggested assessment framework maybe adopted for other industries as well. It is not a secret that many big companies seek opportunities for building highly effective supply chain as it takes many of companies' resources and can significantly affect business results. Thus, suggested model would help companies to identify their strengths and areas for development in supply chain.

### **Quality of thesis layout.**

Quality of the thesis can be evaluated as high.

Master thesis of Zhao Yuhang meets the requirements of the Master in Management, and according to the reviewer's opinion deserves a/an "excellent B" grade, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

Date: 04/06/2018

Referee: Anastasia Koroleva, Key Account Manager at Unilever