Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

FRANCESCA JACKMAN

B.Jour. (Carleton University, 2016)

“Les usages de whatever comme marqueur d’approximation en chiac et leurs propriétés distinctives”

Department of French

Friday, September 13, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B021

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Catherine Léger, Department of French, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Alexandra D’Arcy, Department of Linguistics, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Karine Gauvin, Département d'études françaises, Université de Moncton

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Michael Nowlin, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

This study examines the functions of the borrowed discourse marker (DM) *whatever* in Chiac, an Acadian French dialect spoken in the Moncton region. Analyzing data from two relatively homogenous corpora, a detailed description of the properties of *whatever* in its most frequent role, that of an approximation marker, is provided. In this role, it can signal that the speaker is unable to recall a particular word or detail relating to previous content or mark indifference towards the accuracy of the statement. When *whatever* marks a forgotten element, it is often preceded or followed by a sign of hesitation or is followed by a reformulation which clarifies what the speaker intended to say. This contrasts with the use of *whatever* to mark imprecision. This research uses contextual clues to differentiate various usages of *whatever*, and as such, it offers a methodology for the analysis of the polyvalent DM *whatever.*