

Příloha k protokolu o SZZ č.

Diplomant: **Lukas Mandzikievic**

Vysoká škola: PF JU České Budějovice

Katedra: **anglického jazyka**

Aprobace: **AJ**

Datum odevzdání posudku:

10.1.2011

Vedoucí diplomové práce

Christopher Koy, M.A.

Oponent: **Anna Regina Helal, M.A.**

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

The Brothers Isaac Bashevic Singer and Israel Joshua Singer: Analysis of Four Jewish-American Novels

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téma

Summary

The author has attempted a literary analysis of four novels by two well-known Jewish-American writers, the brothers Isaac Bashevic Singer and Israel Joshua Singer. He has dressed up his analysis by a historical overview of the tenets of Judaism.

1. The goals

The goals of this thesis are stated only generally (in the abstract). It is not clear if the main goal was to do a comparative analysis, as presented in Chapter 6, or to provide a portrait of transition by Jewish immigrants in America, or something else. I cannot therefore clearly state whether the goals have been fulfilled or not.

2. Structure

The thesis covers the historical origins of the Jewish religion, including references to the main Jewish observation rituals. The author then gives us a glimpse into the two brothers' lives before their emigration to America. In the literary analysis, the author concentrates mainly on the characters and their development, rather than the actual plots, which is to his credit.

3. Literature

In the first part of his thesis, Lukas provides a survey of the origins and tenets of Jewish faith, using the Holy Bible as the main source. Before turning his attention to the individual novels, he deals with the differences between the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews and the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. Personally, I would have preferred if he concentrated only on the latter issue and then analyzed the political circumstances which led to the large-scale Jewish exodus in the first half of the 20th century. He could have also outlined the key features of 20th century American novels in general, and Jewish-American novels in particular.

4. Presentation and interpretation of data

With the exception of *The Family Carnovsky*, the author does not concentrate solely on the plots, for which he deserves praise. Instead, he deals with such themes as individual characters and their development, women issues, family issues, adherence to faith and professional successes and failures. While reading, it was not clear to me whether any comparative analysis was being attempted, as Chapter Six seems to be suggesting. The author I feel has missed many opportunities. There are for instance few attempts to compare and contrast the work of the two brothers, save for a single sentence on page 68 (The same theme appears in the novel *Meshugah*).

5. Graphic presentation

The graphic presentation is consistently good.

6. Language

There are numerous examples of unorthodox syntax, such as the use of sentence fragments, and a few odd errors in grammar. The author frequently omits the usage of articles. As a result, the thesis can only be read at a moderate pace.

7. The level of difficulty

I would estimate the level of difficulty to be high. As already stated, I would have preferred different choices for the theory parts. I did not feel that the parts developed by Mr Mandzikievic were reflected in the practical analysis of the novels.

8. Contribution

Average

The opponent's final assessment:

Overall, this work fulfills the requirements laid down for this type of academic work, and I recommend that it be presented to the oral defense. Suggested grade: 3

Questions:

1. Do you agree with Prochazka's thesis that "the peak of American Jewish literature is undoubtedly over?" Why or why not?
2. Can Jewish American themes be taken up by non-Jewish writers?

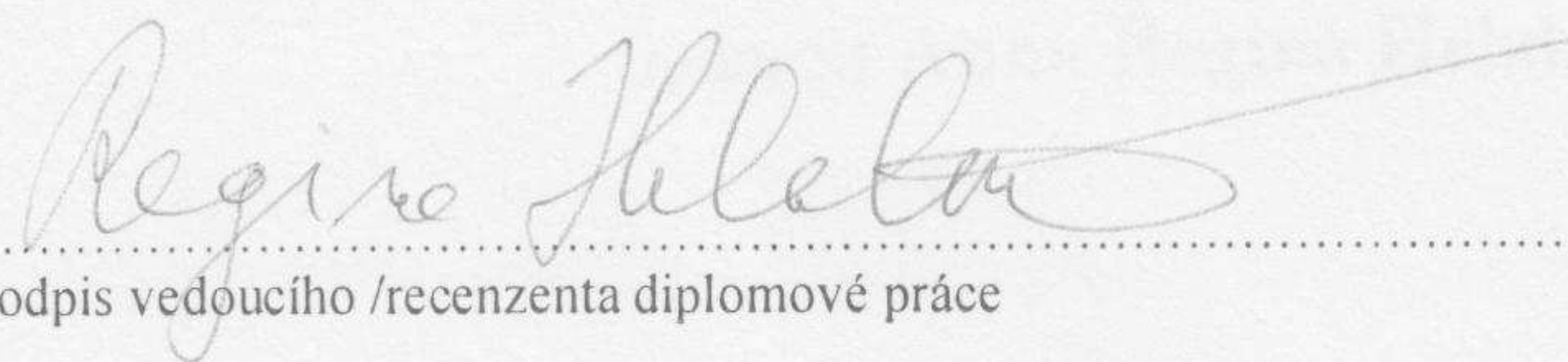
Signature of the opponent:

Anna Regina Helal

Date: January 10, 2011

dobře

Návrh na klasifikaci diplomové práce:



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podpis vedoucího /recenzenta diplomové práce