

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Bc Katerina Hulkova
Název diplomové práce: Themes of Immigration and Assimilation in the Fiction of Abraham Cahan

Vedoucí diplomové práce: PhDr. Christopher Koy, M.A. Ph.D.
Oponent diplomové práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolova, M.A. Ph.D.

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
- II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- III. Práce s literaturou: 1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu, přesná práce s citacemi, kritická analýza zdrojů
- IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat: 1. Systematická, logická prezentace, originální a důsledná interpretace
- V. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 1. Výborná
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 1. Velmi vysoká
- VIII. Přínosy práce: 1. Originální zpracování a názory, předkládá nová zjištění

Vyjádření vedoucího diplomové práce/oponenta diplomové práce*:

This thesis is a very strong effort on an immigrant author whose native tongue was not English but nevertheless provided a brilliant inside view of life via literary fiction as a Jewish immigrant in the U.S.A. some 140 years ago. The aspects involved in the complex processes of an immigrant adjusting to a new country include religion, economics, appearances, speech, attitudes toward people of the opposite sex, attitudes when working in sales, and basically a sense of self-identity. In *The Rise of David Lewinsky*, this process is not as drastic as it usually is for immigrants these days since there was in New York City already a large Jewish community with synagogues and people of his faith who took pity on him and helped him in his start in the new world. In fact, many people who helped David Lewinsky he later

betrayed, including women. The intimacy with which involvement with prostitutes is openly revealed by the former Talmud scholar was quite shocking at the time of publication. Ms. Hulkova dealt with both the primary and secondary texts available with ease and wrote an analysis which acknowledges all these complexities, not only in the classic novel *The Rise of David Lewinsky*, but the lesser-known novellas and short stories as well. In addition to the complexities of themes, often foreign words and particularly obscure Jewish religious vocabulary are included in the fiction which made for a challenging effort for someone who is not Jewish. Additionally, occasional vernacular or „dialect“ appears in the short stories, with orthography reflecting the foreign accent of the immigrant characters engaged in dialogues. All in all, this is a wonderful thesis written with a quite excellent level of English, and so there is precious little to criticize.

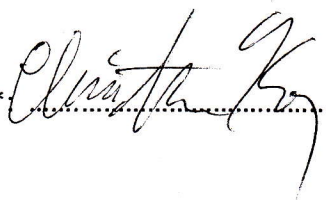
Práce splňuje * základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji * k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně *

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. One mark of criticism offered to Jewish writers like Abraham Cahan is that he produces unflattering depictions of Jews which could be used by anti-Semites such as German Nazis later in the 20th century. Can you cite some of these characteristics which racists might exploit and explain why – or why not (in your opinion) Cahan should have still – or should not have – written in this open fashion? (You might well have noted that most of the critical (secondary) literature on Cahan is written by Jewish critics).
2. What aspects of the immigration experience today would you believe to be even more difficult than the experiences of characters in Cahan's fiction?

Podpis vedoucího diplomové práce diplomové práce*



Datum:

*nehodící se škrtněte