

POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglická a americká literatura (jednooborové navazující studium)**

Název práce: **Quest for Perfection in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Mosses from an Old Manse***

Autorka práce: **Bc. Ráchel Bubíková**

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

Stručná charakteristika práce

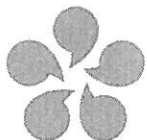
The thesis examines the theme of the search for perfection in six stories from Nathaniel Hawthorne's collection *Mosses from an Old Manse* in relationship to the concept of perfection and its role in the thought of American Puritans and of Transcendentalists. The first chapters summarize and compare the views of perfection among Puritans (who represent both an influence and a topic for Hawthorne), and Transcendentalists (as Hawthorne's contemporaries, representing the context in which he was writing). The core of the thesis lies in three chapters dedicated to the analysis of the stories, where two stories are always taken as representative of one area to which the perfection is related (science, relationships, art).

Celkové zhodnocení

Rachel's thesis is a result of her long-term interest in Hawthorne's works. I appreciate the choice of the topic – the theme of perfection is certainly an important one in Hawthorne, yet has not been critically discussed in depth. Very interestingly, Rachel examines the topic in two contexts at once: the Puritan, and the transcendentalist one (usually, Hawthorne is studied in either one context, or the other). In this way, the various concepts of perfection are introduced in an interesting interplay, making the reader see connections not only between Hawthorne's work and his Puritan predecessors on the one hand, and his Transcendentalist contemporaries on the other, but also between Puritans and Transcendentalists, through the topic of perfection.

The structure of the thesis is clear and logical – I enjoyed the balanced composition of chapters consisting always of two in-depth analyses followed by a comparison. The stories chosen for analyses include some of the most famous ones (e.g. „The Birthmark“), but also some less known ones (such as „Mrs. Bullfrog“). All of Rachel's close-readings of the stories are very careful, full of good insights and close attention to subtle details of the texts. At the same time, she shows her familiarity with scholarly approaches to both Hawthorne and the theme of perfection.

The thesis has been consulted diligently throughout the process of writing and Rachel responded to all my comments with comprehension and creativity. Her work fulfills the diploma thesis requirements and I am happy to recommend it for defense.



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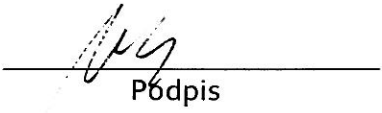
Jihočeská univerzita
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in České Budějovice

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

1. 6. 2016

Datum



Přdpis