



POSUDEK OPONENTA DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **From *Child in Time* to *Atonement*: The importance of crisis in Ian McEwan's works**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Karolína Krhutová**

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **doc. PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

Oponent diplomové práce: **Mgr. Tomáš Jajtner, Ph.D. et Th.D.**

Short characteristics of the thesis

Karolína Krhutová's thesis deals with the phenomenon of crisis in the mature novels of Ian McEwan (b. 1948). The first two chapters contextualize McEwan's work, looking at the cultural and social landscape of Britain at the beginning of his career and introducing the typical features of his novels. The core of the thesis is a thorough analysis of 6 novels published between 1987 to 2001 (*The Child In Time*, *The Innocent*, *Black Dogs*, *Enduring Love*, *Amsterdam* and *Atonement*). Karolína uses the method of close-reading, pinpointing the key critical moments in the development of the respective works and their main characters. The thesis is summed up in a short conclusion.

Overall assessment

First of all, I would like to stress that the thesis is written in a very readable and pleasing English style, it is well-organized and with a clearly defined focus. Karolína's fascination with McEwan's work and her passion for its challenging moments add yet another dimension to it. In that sense, the thesis may be said to fulfil the key expectations one may have of a mature graduate thesis.

Nevertheless, if close-reading is Karolína's major success, her ability to draw broader conclusions from the novels lacks much to be desired. Arguably, the most obvious sign of this shortcoming is the final conclusion: not only is too short and too general, it also fails to deliver a more general, truly "concluding" statement about the main topic of the thesis, i.e. the phenomenon of crisis in McEwan's work. If the work aspires to be a thematic study dealing with multiple novels, such conclusions are not only "expected", they necessarily complete the text as an integral piece of work. In fact, the whole thesis seems to be rather a juxtaposition of six separate analyses whose only connection is the same author. Although Karolína here and there refers to the development of McEwan's work, these references are mainly taken from secondary sources and do not seem very convincing in the end. Ultimately, the question is not just the centrality of "crisis" in McEwan's novels, but its development and the various possible interpretations of it. If McEwan creates a world of his own, is it the *same* world? What makes it typical? Is there anything that the characters have in common? Can we add a new dimension to the analysis of the individual works, perhaps a key to the whole of McEwan's oeuvre? Such



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questions should necessarily be addressed, if Karolína ever pursues the study of his novels further.

With all its shortcomings, however, I do find the thesis an interesting and respectable piece of work and **recommend it for defence**.

I suggest the following grade: **very good (velmi dobře)**.

24. 8. 2017

Datum

Podpis