



POSUDEK OPONENTA DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglická a americká literatura (dvouoborové)**

Název práce: ***The Paradoxical Worlds of F. Scott Fitzgerald***

Autorka práce: **Bc. Milada Šanderová**

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

Milada Šanderová's thesis deals with the "paradoxes" and conflicting tensions in the three major novels of F. S. Fitzgerald, namely *This Side of Paradise* (1920), *Tender is the Night* (1934) and his last, unfinished novel *The Last Tycoon* (1940). The author omits both *The Great Gatsby* (1925), because it was the focus of her B.A. thesis, as well as *The Beautiful and the Damned* (1922), since the core of the analysis would more or less overlap with that of *This Side of Paradise*.

After a short introduction explaining the basic line of the analysis, the thesis discusses the novels in chronological order, focusing on the *social background*, the *main male* and, finally, the *main female* characters of the given novel. The conclusion summarizes the key findings of the work, pointing to the difficulty of providing a definitive list of all the "significant contradictions and binary oppositions" that can be found in the mentioned novels. Nevertheless, Milada does affirm the importance of these oppositions to understand Fitzgerald's genius.

Overall assessment

The core of the text is close-reading and in that respect, Milada's prose flows very naturally, making good use of both primary and secondary sources. The basic line of the method is understandable, the author succeeds in uncovering the different layers of reflection and meaning present in Fitzgerald's work. Regardless relatively minor problems with articles, capitalization, prepositional phrases, spelling, typos etc. the text is written in remarkably good English. Well-done!

The main problem of the work seems to be the unclear definition of the key term of the analysis: i.e. **the concept of paradox**. Milada identifies the inner contradictions and oppositions that create the unity of the novels; however, the contexts of "paradox" seem to be almost completely omitted. Is paradox important in Fitzgerald's work? How? Can it be related to any other major author and philosopher of the age?

In that sense, the thesis reads as a commentary on the novels and their different contexts, but rarely arrives at a concrete point about the paradoxical nature of life experiences of the given characters. Not surprisingly, therefore, the conclusion only sums up what has been said, but essentially fails to deliver a more tangible point about the "paradoxical" nature of "F. S Fitzgerald's worlds".

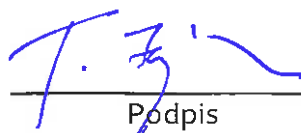


Given the overall good impression the thesis creates, this is a bit disappointing. Hopefully, Milada clears up the doubts at the defence.

Nevertheless, I **do** recommend the thesis for defence and suggest the following grade: **very good (velmi dobře)**.

22.08.2018

Datum



Podpis