



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura – Španělský jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **Dickens's Characters**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Barbora Černošková**

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

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

Short characteristics of the thesis

Barbora's BA thesis presents a broad typology of characters to be found in the key novels of Charles Dickens (1812-1870), esp. *The Pickwick Papers*, *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*. It begins with a comprehensive introduction to the historical, social and literary context of Victorian Britain (Chapter 1), moving on to the "world of Charles Dickens" (Chapter 2), i.e. the idiosyncratic features of Dickens's writing. The crucial, analytical part of the thesis can be found in Chapter 3, where Barbora discusses the different types and categories of Dickens's characters. The Conclusion shortly summarises the findings and discusses Dickens's appeal for contemporary readers.

Overall assessment

Overall, the thesis has a lucid structure, the argumentation line is easy to follow, and it is written in decent English, with relatively minor occasional errors (in articles, idioms etc.). Also, the sheer volume of literary texts the author had to work with and excerpt from clearly exceeds standard BA theses. Last but not least, the enthusiastic way it is written reflects Barbora's lasting interest in the work of this key Victorian author.

However, I do have some reservations as to the breadth of the discussion and to an observable psychological bias in treating the different characters, resp. in trying to explain their psychological dynamics. Barbora presents Dickens's characters as a colourful and deeply entertaining carnival of types, however, the thesis would benefit from a more scholarly approach focusing on some of the key terms of the Victorian novel, esp. the concept of the *Bildungsroman*. In other words, how do the various novels treat the inner development of the characters? Is there any standard "Dickensian" formula for their evolution? Moreover, the sweeping criticism of Dickens's work in the writings of the English modernists (e.g. Virginia Woolf), which identifies the alleged superficiality of his writing poses yet another interesting set of questions which seem to go almost completely unnoticed in Barbora's account.



I understand that secondary literature to Dickens and the Victorian novel is enormous, however, a larger and more carefully selected body of texts and critical approaches than just the ones Barbora uses, i.e. predominantly biographical works, would help the discussion. In fact, the key tenor of the thesis is one of an enthusiastic reader focusing (mainly) on her own reading experience. The final inconclusive conclusion of the whole work only proves this fundamental point: is Dickens's work worth reading only for the "hope" and the "moral lesson" it offers? Is there anything else?

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

21. 8. 2020

Datum

Podpis