



## POSUDEK OPONENTA DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

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Studijní obor: **Anglická a americká literatura – Historie (nav.dv.)**

Název práce: ***The Monster in British Gothic Fiction***

Autorka práce: **Bc. Kateřina Burešová**

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

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

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### Short characteristics of the thesis

Kateřina Burešová's M.A. thesis deals with "monsters" in some of the key "Gothic" works of English/British literature, namely Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *Christabel* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Carmilla* by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. By analyzing this selection of texts stretching from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the late Victorian period, Kateřina presents a fascinating palette of the various forms and transformations the "Gothic" poetics took and shows the multifarious possibilities of their interpretations. Structurally speaking, the thesis proceeds from a theoretical introduction to analysing the individual works. The various interpretative threads are drawn together in the conclusion.

### Overall assessment

Kateřina's M.A. thesis is a very readable piece of work, it is written in pleasing English (with only minor problems), and it displays a good balance of theoretical insight and close-reading. The theoretical introduction opens up a lot of important issues for interpreting the Gothic genre, especially Jeffrey J. Cohen's seven theses to approach or "read cultures from the monsters they engender" (p. 8). This essentially psychoanalytical method presents a very fruitful starting point of the analysis, also as regards the popularity of the genre today.

Kateřina's interpretations are insightful and well-researched, taking into consideration the social, scientific and historical contexts of the period. They show how the multifarious anxieties of 19<sup>th</sup> century culture find their imprint in the analysed works. The conclusion attempts to sum up the fascination of the Gothic and its monsters: the monster brings chaos and substantiates fears and anxieties an individual or a community may have. Getting rid of the monster represents the wished-for climax, however, the struggle has its costs, and nobody guarantees the monster, or any other evil creature won't appear in the future. In that sense, the genre describes a full circle: the end of the story may quickly turn into a new beginning.

For the discussion at the defence I would like to focus on the typology of the monsters, issues of gender (male-female monsters), and the various transformations of the Gothic we find in modern thrillers, horrors, but also computer games and action movies.



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Kateřina's thesis was a very interesting read, indeed, with many inspirational, one would almost say revelatory moments. That is why I gladly recommend the thesis for defence and suggest the following grade: **excellent (výborně)**.

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31.5.2020

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Datum

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Podpis