

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Jakub Remeš
Název bakalářské práce: The Representation of Richard Nixon in Works of Hunter S. Thompson and Norman Mailer
Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Christopher Koy, M.A., Ph.D.
Oponentka bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, M.A.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky

II. Struktura práce: Logická, jasná a přehledná

III. Práce s literaturou: Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu

IV. Formální stránka: Obsahuje drobné formální chyby

VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: Dobrá

VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: Vysoká

Vyjádření oponentky bakalářské práce:

The thesis examines two unconventional journalistic accounts of a series of complex historical and political events in 1970s America. It is well-structured and clear to follow. It opens with the biographical introduction of both authors and summaries of their journalistic affiliations and proceeds via a general historical overview to the analysis of the presidential election of 1972 and its depictions in the studied works. Having said that, the introductory part, in particular, suffers from a lack of chronological information. This includes, for example, the omission of publication dates, especially in places where several literary and other works are compared (e.g. p.12). An overview of Richard Nixon's political posts, including dates, would be helpful in the first section that summarizes his role in the events

(5.1.1., p.20). The 'New Journalism' chapter (p.11-15) lacks a concise definition and description of the style.

The second part of the thesis depicts the complexities of the 1972 presidential election. It would be useful to state clearly at this point that the representation of the events is derived primarily from the perceptions by Thompson and Mailer as indicated in the abstract. The chapter describes the complicated situation in the Democratic party and some of the major twists and ambiguities that affected its standing and eventual failure in the election. Attention is also paid to the activist protests in Miami and the way in which they were perceived by Thompson and Mailer. The quotes from their books are used well to illustrate the atmosphere of hostility and confusion as well as the authors' personal frustration. Their views and representations of the events are, nevertheless, rarely juxtaposed and analysed. As a result, the comparative element remains subdued throughout the thesis, with the authors' views and comments fused into a single narrative.

As a part of the final, sadly rather brief, comparison of the two books, the candidate draws attention to Ralph Steadman's illustrations and aptly points out their affinity with Thompson's idiosyncratic writing style. The candidate chooses a telling quotation from Thompson (p. 41-42) to illustrate his style of writing as well as his perception of Nixon. A similar quote from Mailer and a subsequent commentary on both authors' reporting styles and their views of Nixon would be useful. As it stands, the thesis does not quite do justice to its title as the representation of Nixon himself in the studied works is given only limited space and escapes detailed analysis.

The candidate has shown the ability to work with a wide range of sources (academic, journalistic & literary) and used them adequately to demonstrate the affinities between Thompson's and Mailer's accounts of the events and the ways in which their reporting styles reflect the mood of the day. The candidate's writing style could be more formal but the overall stylistic quality is very good. The number of grammatical mistakes (e.g. improper use of articles, prepositions – p.35, quantifiers – p. 22, 33, or syntactic structures – p.29 etc.) and typos (p. 23, 29, 34, 35) suggests rushed editing, nevertheless, they do not hinder understanding or flow of the argument. Referencing of sources is good and consistent, with only several inaccuracies (p. 18, 40, 42, 46).

Práce splňuje základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: velmi dobře


Otázky k obhajobě:

1. In your thesis (p. 4), you mention Mailer's use of the 3rd-person narrator as an original feature of his writing. Can you explain what this means, especially in relation to the aspect of subjectivity/objectivity in the context of New Journalism, and compare Mailer's approach with Thompson's?

2. Can you summarize the main similarities and differences between the authors' writing styles? How do they create their images and scenes and build up their arguments? Say more about the writers' use of the stream-of-consciousness technique mentioned on p. 43. Can you see any difference between the use of the technique in reporting and as a literary device?

3. How do Thompson and Mailer construct their images of Nixon? Consider, for example, their use of the McGovern-Nixon polarity or metaphors such as "the Godfather" and "Barbie doll President".

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce:.....



Datum: 29.5. 2020