



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura (dvouoborové studium)**

Název práce: **Hidden Feminism in Jane Austen's Novels**

Autorka práce: **Eva Pečenková**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Einat Adar, M.A. Ph.D**

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

Stručná charakteristika práce / Short characteristics of the thesis

This thesis looks at feminist issues in two novels by Jane Austen – *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*. Based on a study of the situation of women of the lower aristocracy during the regency era, the author highlights the criticism of social conventions and structural inequality in both novels, and how Austen's heroines respond to them with inner strength, compassion, and conviction. Special attention was paid to the financial implications of marriage at the time and more originally, to the topic of education in both novels, showing that Austen was unfavourable to contemporary accumulation of 'accomplishments' and favoured independent reading instead.

Celkové zhodnocení / Overall assessment

As her supervisor, I must commend Eva for her highly organised and independent way of working. She had a clear plan of what she wanted to do in this project from the beginning, and she was able to remarkably develop her knowledge about the historical background and her interpretation of the novels. Her choice to compare the earlier and most famous novel *Pride and Prejudice* with the later, and somewhat maligned novel, *Mansfield Park* is an excellent way of challenging and complicating the idealisation of Elizabeth Bennett as a feminist heroine. She had confidence in her view of the characters and feminist themes in the novel, and yet responsive to comments and questions. Overall, Eva presents her views in a convincing and nuanced way.

The thesis is well-written and has a clear and easy-to-understand structure, with each part focusing on a different subject, leading to the conclusion which compares the two novels in order to highlight the special traits of *Mansfield Park* and its heroine. The arguments are made clearly and are supported by research and close readings.

My only suggestion for improvement if Eva decides to pursue this subject further, is to engage more with the critical literature about *Mansfield Park*, since its main character Fanny has become somewhat of an object of contention among feminist scholars, and it would be interesting to see how Eva would position or change her arguments in response. I would like to clarify that the level of research in the current thesis is adequate for BA work, so this comment should be taken as a the next step in taking this work to a higher level.

Given all of the above I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest the mark **excellent**.



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Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: výborně

27. 5. 2021

Datum

Podpis