

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Denisa Rossmüllerová
Název bakalářské práce: Tomas O’Crahan’s *The Islandman* as the Object of Satire in
Flann O’Brien’s *The Poor Mouth*
The Islandman Tomase O’Crahana jako předmět satiry v *The*
Poor Mouth Flanna O’Briena

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Christopher Erwin Koy, M.A., PhD.
Oponentka bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, M.A., Ph.D.

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění:
1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
 - ~~2. Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky~~
 - ~~3. Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný~~
 4. Stanovený cíl nebyl naplněn
- II. Struktura práce:
1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
 - ~~2. Přiměřená~~
 - ~~3. Uspokojivá~~
 4. Nevhodná
- III. Práce s literaturou:
1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu
 - ~~2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu~~
 - ~~3. Průměrná práce s literaturou~~
 4. Slabá, chybná nebo nedostačující
- IV. Formální stránka:
1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
 - ~~2. Obsahuje drobné formální chyby~~
 - ~~3. Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky~~
 4. Nesplňuje většinu stanovených požadavků
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce:
1. Výborná
 - ~~2. Velmi dobrá~~
 - ~~3. Dobrá~~
 4. Podprůměrná
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu:
1. Velmi vysoká
 - ~~2. Vysoká~~
 - ~~3. Střední~~
 4. Nízká

Vyjádření oponentky bakalářské práce:

The thesis delivers a comparative analysis of Tomas O’Crahan’s novel *The Islandman* and Flann O’Brien’s satirical work *The Poor Mouth*. Both initially published in Irish, they are described as parts of the Irish literary tradition, the evolution of which is outlined in the opening part of the thesis. It shows the significance of literary texts written in Irish as valuable historical sources but also as sites instrumental for the preservation of the Irish language, old Irish mythology, and Irish folklore. Published in the 1920s, *The Islandman* is placed among works created during the Irish Literary Revival, fuelled by nationalist efforts, which made Irish writing prolific and self-conscious but also subject to idealisation and ideologization. Flann O’Brien is mentioned among authors who wrote in both English and Irish. The comparative analysis relies on detailed accounts of both novels’ contents. In the case of *The Islandman*, there are three subchapters that retell O’Crahan’s memories of his youth, adulthood, and his interest in the Irish language. Ms Rossmüllerová emphasises the vividness of his narrative, which consists of episodes recalling individual events from his life, interspersed with descriptions of places, people, and their way of life. She also comments on the photographs placed throughout the book. In my view, this part of the thesis would deserve more critical thought on how the memoirs are shaped and delivered. *The Poor Mouth* section is more successful in this respect since the retelling of the content already includes demonstrations of thematic, stylistic, narrative, and graphic parallels to *The Islandman*. Ms Rossmüllerová highlights the main instances of parody and satire as well as the parodic analogies between illustrations. She shows that O’Brien’s satire relies especially on exaggeration and grotesqueness, but she also gives examples of the author’s play with language. She makes clear that *The Poor Mouth* not only parodies O’Crahan’s book and the Blasket autobiographies but also mocks the overzealousness of Gaelic Revival efforts. The last chapter gives an overview of the shifts in describing the Irish peasant during the 20th century based on Hirsch’s *The Imaginary Irish Peasant* (1991). This part feels slightly unbalanced and contains some inaccuracies, such as “Stephen Dedalus’ [instead of James Joyce’s] *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*” (p. 51). The Conclusion includes useful suggestions for further research.

The thesis is well-structured and written in very good English, with only occasional grammar mistakes and typos. The main weakness of the thesis is its too close paraphrasing of the source texts: words and whole phrases, such as “the little school” or “for the like of us” (both p.16), “the Islanders had no lack of pork for a year” (p. 17) etc. have been taken from the original text and should be placed in brackets and cited. This also sometimes causes small confusions, as in the case of the comments on changes in lifestyle and housing (p.18) or eating (p.24), which are O’Crahan’s and not the present author’s.

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

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

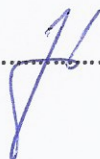
Otázky k obhajobě:

1. You mention Jarzab-Napierała’s article that challenges the prevailing view of *The Islandman* as a representative of authentic Irish oral tradition. It is joined by other critics, who refer, for example, to O’Crahan’s knowledge of classical literature and also the impact

of professional editing and translating. What is your opinion regarding these arguments?
Where do you see the main value of O’Crahan’s autobiography?

2. Page 42 gives an illustration of Bonaparte’s polished language. What, in your opinion,
does O’Brien’s mock through it?

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce:.....



Datum: 15.8. 2021