



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglická a americká literatura**

Název práce: **Namelessness in fantasy fiction**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Sofiia Votínová**

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

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

Quality of Research

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

1. The topic of the thesis is suitable for the scope and well defined: 3
2. Sets clear goals or questions for research: 2
3. Delivers significant research findings: 2
4. Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy: 3
5. Demonstrates a good understanding of the literary work(s) discussed: 3
6. Demonstrates a good understanding of the critical field: 3
7. Engages with sufficient scholarship in a meaningful way: 3
8. Shows independent thinking and originality: 3

2) Comment briefly on the quality of the research presented in the thesis:

The thesis sets out to study the topic of namelessness without defining precisely what it is the author is trying to find out. There is an indication in the assertion that "One of the main functions of names in a literary text, in my opinion, is to create an onomastic background that forms the reader's impression of the reality of the artistic space and time of the depicted secondary world, allowing the reader to believe in the authenticity of events and characters." However, it is not clear how this would differ from any other name and the conclusion seems to confirm that absence of names performs a similar role to that of other names in the works studied in the thesis.

Quality of Writing

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

1. Has a clear and suitable structure: 3
2. Employs appropriate register and academic style: 3
3. Uses correct and relevant terminology: 3
4. Adheres to academic thesis guidelines, format and MLA style guide: 3
5. Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary): 2
6. Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes: 3

2) Comment briefly on the quality of the writing presented in the thesis:

The thesis is generally well written and fluent, with some small linguistic mistakes and infelicities.



Overall Review and Assessment

This thesis deals with namelessness in chosen works of fantasy fiction. Although literature abounds in nameless characters there is little systematic research of the phenomenon, and the author attempts to fill in this gap. A theoretical chapter lays out the foundations by looking at the importance of names in literature, and consequently at the meaning of the absence of names. Two consequent chapters study nameless characters in two series of fantasy novels *A Song of Fire and Ice* and the *Earthsea* trilogy. An impressive array of theoretical approaches is used to study the nameless characters and literary devices, from anthropology and sociology to psychology and philosophy. The thesis has a clear structure and the short conclusion at the end of each chapter helps navigate the reader through the complexity of the arguments.

As the supervisor, I was impressed by Sofii's ability to carve out a niche in the research and her ability to interweave theory with a literary interpretation. The result is the result of a genuine process of research in which different approaches and methods were examined, with only some proving to be fruitful. A lot of effort has also been spent on the linguistic and stylistic aspects of the thesis and although the result is not perfect, it is definitely acceptable and the text flows naturally for the most part.

The broad approach to the subject is both the strength and the weakness of this thesis. On the one hand, the thesis uncovers a variety of aspects of namelessness and different ways of conceptualising this unusual literary choice. On the other hand, it is hard to draw any general conclusions about namelessness from the findings, since each character or topic is studied through a different lens.

If the author will choose to continue this research, as I hope she will, I would recommend a better definition of the methodology and possibly reducing the number of theoretical perspective to allow for a more consistent examination of this fascinating topic.

Questions for Defence

1. In your research, did you find aspects of namelessness that are unique to this literary choice as opposed to forming part of the texture of the works discussed?
2. In what directions could your research be developed?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

19. 8. 2023

Datum

Podpis