



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglická a americká literatura**

Název práce: **Imagism and Visuality in William Carlos Williams's Poems**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Tereza Markytánová**

Vedoucí diplomové práce: **doc. PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

Oponentka diplomové práce: **Einat Adar, MA, 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: 3
3. Delivers significant research findings: 3
4. Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy: 3
5. Demonstrates a good understanding of the literary works discussed: 3
6. Demonstrates a good understanding of the critical field: 2
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 topic of the thesis is clearly stated and the research is based on some relevant secondary sources (although some more works of criticism dealing directly with the poems discussed might be helpful). The basic conceptual framework is clear and the primary texts are well chosen. The close readings of the poems are insightful and well argued.

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: 2
5. Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary): 3
6. Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes: 2

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

The thesis is written in good English (with occasional minor errors in syntax), it is also sound on the formal level (some minor issues with the format of the citations occur). The text reads well and naturally, while sticking to the academic standards.



Overall Review and Assessment

(short description of the thesis and its findings, what has been achieved, and areas for improvement)

The aim of the thesis is to examine one of the signature qualities of the poetry of the American modernist poet William Carlos Williams, namely its visuality, both in his works that deal directly with painting (his ekphrastic poems) and his visual poems on different subjects. The thesis starts with the delineation of the conceptual framework, defining ekphrastic art, visuality and the relevant historical and aesthetic context of Williams's works, namely his relation to Imagism and his connections to visual arts.

The body of the thesis is formed by detailed close readings of a selection of Williams's poems.

The thesis is clearly and logically structured, its conceptual basis is sound and the close readings are carefully executed with close attention to details of form, language, sound, imagery, and other crucial aspects of the poems discussed. It is important to stress that these readings are not derivative, they are Tereza's own and she does not depend on other people's views. That is, in my opinion, a good thing, especially as it allows her to delve into the poems deep and come up with some interesting insights. I also think that on the MA level it is a real achievement if the student proves capable of independent interpretation of difficult poetry. At the same time, more involvement of other critical views (readings of the particular poems discussed) might be helpful and inspiring and could enhance the readings that are now rather on the level of a dialogue with the poems in question rather than fully-fledged critical commentaries (that said, even such insightful "dialogue" is an achievement on the MA level).

Where the thesis may not quite fulfill the original (perhaps a bit too ambitious) plan seems to be in the deeper and more general examination of the mutual relationship between the ekphrastic poems and the merely visual poems. However, the issues that would arise in the examination (like the referential vs. self-contained nature of art) might prove too much for the scope of an MA thesis.

As a supervisor, I appreciate the student's independent approach – the thesis required just basic guidance to which the student responded intelligently and creatively. It needs to be stressed that poetry criticism is a very difficult field and writing insightfully about poetry is a skill that few students dare even attempt. It is commendable that Tereza had the courage to head that way and the result is a sound reading of a number of very difficult modernist poems. There is no doubt that the thesis fulfills the requirements for an MA thesis and can be seen as excellent.

Questions for Defence

(please provide two questions for the student to answer during their defence)

1. I would like to hear more about the relationship between the explicitly ekphrastic poems and the visual descriptive non-ekphrastic poems by Williams.
2. You interestingly speak about the visuality on the formal (typographical) level of the poems. Do you see a development in this respect between the early and the later poems?



Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **v ý b o r n ě**

30. 5. 2023

Datum

Podpis

* Numerical assessments are provided as a guideline for recommending the final grade following an indicative scale:

over 38 "výborně"

32-38 "velmi dobře"

28-32 "dobře"

below 28 points the work is in danger of failing.

The final grade will be determined by the committee following the thesis defence.