



POSUDEK OPONENTA DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: Anglická a americká literatura (jednooborové navazující studium)

Název práce: **The Image of Italy and Italians in the Works by E. M. Forster and Henry James**

Autorka práce: **Bc. Silvie Jeřábková**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

Oponent bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Tomáš Jajtner, Ph.D. et Th.D.**

Short characteristics of the thesis

Silvie Jeřábková's thesis deals with the reflection of Italy and the Italians in the works of E. M. Forster and Henry James. The author first introduces the novels, identifies the relevant sections dealing with Italy and the Italians and analyses the "image" they create of them. Having discussed the relevant novels of both Forster and James, Silvie proceeds to the comparison of their "views" on Italy and the Italians with regards to "Italian setting and art", "The role of Italy in the books", "Similarities and differences of Italian characters", "Cultural prejudices, stereotypes and xenophobia" and, finally, "The influence of Henry James on E. M. Forster". In the last part of the thesis, the author discusses film adaptations of some of the analysed novels.

Overall assessment

Overall, the thesis is written in a pleasing style, it is well-structured and the line of argument is easy to follow. It is clear that the author spent a fair amount of time with the preparation of the thesis.

However, I do have some reservations. The text contains some minor linguistic errors and a handful of rather awkward formulations (e.g. on p. 57 we find the following sentence "Gino and Osmond deal with their wives as with their properties"). While referring to the works of Forster and James, Silvie often uses the word "books", which sounds rather clumsy in an academic piece of work.

As for the structure of the thesis, the inclusion of the chapter on film adaptations seems rather superfluous, since it does not really relate to the rest of the work. Moreover, the chapter itself is written in a surprisingly straightforward way: Silvie compares the text of the novels with the script of the movies and points out the differences, but never really deals with the process of "translating" the novels into the "language" of the film and the difficulties this undertaking brings. In order to come up with more than just "literal" differences between the novels and the movies, one has to employ methods appropriate for this type of analysis, otherwise the outcome is essentially irrelevant for the rest of the work. Of course, nobody really expects Silvie to be knowledgeable about the various methodologies used in film studies, but what surprises is the complete lack of any kind of analysis related to the "re-contextualizing" of James' works in the film adaptations



produced from 1974-2000. I haven't found a single reference to any film reviews or reflections on the "relevance" of both Forster and James for the contemporary viewers.

Nevertheless, this work does fulfil the requirements for an MA thesis and **I do recommend** it for the defence. I propose the following grade: **very good** (velmi dobře).

3. 6. 2015

Datum

Podpis