



## POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The role of irrationality in selected Ian McEwan's early works**

Autorka práce: **Karolína Krhútová**

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

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

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### Short characteristics of the thesis

Karolína Krhutová's thesis deals with irrational moments and their role in selected works of Ian McEwan, namely his two collections of short stories *First Love, Last Rites* (1975) and *In Between Sheets* (1978) and his acclaimed novel *The Cement Garden* (1978). The work starts with a discussion of the term "postmodernism" and its usability for McEwan's work. The author looks at 4 main issues traditionally associated with postmodern fiction (the problem of truth, the image of a human being, the image of the world and the use of humour and specific language). In all of these analyses, Karolína seeks to test the validity of the theoretical aspects on McEwan's work. In the second part, entitled "rational and irrational", the focus moves onto the analysis of the mentioned works. The author discusses some of the major "irrational" moments in the selected texts, concentrating on issues of masculinity and femininity, the conflicts of children and adults, sexual aberrations and "relativity and objectivity".

### Overall assessment

Overall, the work is written in a pleasing style, although the author did not quite manage to eliminate certain unnecessary grammatical errors and syntactical imprecisions. Karolína works with a number of difficult philosophical texts and handles them quite felicitously. The analysis touches a number of important issues that permeate McEwan's works as well as his special standing within the "postmodern canon".

The texts chosen are, indeed, difficult and challenging for any reader and some of the problems I find in the thesis are in some ways proportionate to the inner tensions in the original works themselves. However, there are parts in the analysis where the difficulties become more apparent than elsewhere, e.g. when Karolína uses Freudian allusions, these are often used without the proper context and, therefore, point into a different direction than the actual analysis. It almost seems as if they are used - so to speak - "on the top of the analysis" and, thus, tend to lose their referential function. Moreover, the postmodern irony and



playfulness makes the assessment of such allusions somewhat problematic. As for the analysis itself, the difficulty of the originals is often reflected in the interpretations: Karolína opens up a number of important issues, however, the thesis hardly reaches any workable conclusions about the relation between "rationality" and "irrationality" in McEwan's characters.

Nevertheless, I think it is a thesis that deserves some credit. Therefore, **I do recommend** it for the defence and propose the following grade: **very good** (velmi dobře).

11. 6. 2014

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Datum

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Podpis