



POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **Edgar Allan Poe as the Progenitor of the Modern Detective Tale**

Autor/-ka práce: **Oldřich Žižka**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

Oponent/-ka bakalářské práce: **Richard Stock, Ph.D.**

Stručná charakteristika práce

The thesis discusses Poe's role in the creation of the detective genre, offering a brief summary of the history of the genre and focusing on three of Poe's stories exemplifying the genre: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", "The Mystery of Marie Rogêt" and "The Purloined Letter". In the final part it briefly connects Poe's detective fiction to later authors and focuses on Dürrenmatt's novel *Das Versprechen: Requiem auf den Kriminalroman* as a 20th-century response to Poe's detective stories.

Celkové zhodnocení

Oldřich Žižka focuses on the genre E. A. Poe is notorious for, despite the fact that he only wrote three stories which undisputedly represent the genre. The centre of the thesis is the description of these three stories, in which Oldřich pays close attention to the aspects he sees as constituent of the genre. His method is descriptive, sometimes he has a tendency to follow the details of the plot, while the thesis would probably benefit from more analytical insights. There are some good points, though, for example, the stressing of the role of the „media“ (newspapers) in the stories.

I appreciate the author's comparative approach to his subject in his linking of Poe's stories and the Dürrenmatt novel, which introduces an interesting critical point about Poe's highly rational version of the genre, namely the absence of the powers beyond the control of the detective (unfortunately, Oldřich does not develop the point much further, neither does he make the valid connection between it and the earlier claims about the manipulative powers of Poe's detectives, their will to control).

In the process of writing the thesis, Oldřich managed to make some significant improvements to both the structure and the contents, however, the thesis still does not quite hold together as a seamless piece of writing: this applies particularly to the lack of organic connection between the rather sketchy historical introduction and the main body of the work. More attention to the definition and theoretical (rather than historical) aspects of the detective genre would also have been appropriate. Otherwise, the thesis is logically structured, it keeps focused on the topic, the texts are well chosen and read closely (albeit rather superficially). I recommend it for defense.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: velmi dobře

14. 6. 2014

Datum

Podpis