



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The Problem of Slavery and Race in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***

Autor/-ka práce: **Adéla Staňková**

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

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

Stručná charakteristika práce

This thesis focuses on Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). It mainly analyzes the characters of Huck and Jim in terms of race and racism, trying to accurately define both characters in terms of how they think and feel about each other and blacks and whites in general.

Celkové zhodnocení

Generally this is a well-written and well-organized thesis, which is very welcome. It is easy to read page by page and also Adela includes enough directions to the reader so that navigation through the different chapters and topics is easy. The analysis in the thesis is largely very sound and the conclusions made from that analysis are reasonable and at times unique and valuable. The thesis could have had a stronger singular main idea/argument that unites the whole thesis.

I admire the fact that Adela devotes a first, post-introductory chapter to narrative considerations. This is a double-edged sword, however. There are relevant narrative complications that go beyond what Adela covers in this chapter. The fact that the topic is addressed at all highlights those other complications, but at the same time it would not be preferable to disregard this issue completely and not highlight these further complications. So in an ideal world I would like to see the narrative discussed more completely, but I value the presence of a chapter like this at all.

When writing about a literary work from the past, we always have to deal with the difference between our contemporary definitions of racism and the definitions used then (and our desires for absolute definition, which do not exist in either time). In some places in this thesis this is done well, and the issues are historicized accurately. But in some places Adela implements a more absolute definition of what is racist, and in these parts I am caused to wonder if parts of the novel that look racist today were actually non-racist and maybe even shocking to contemporary readers. Literary characters can be representative, but they also can be unrepresentative for certain purposes.

Throughout most of the thesis, I had a hard time understanding what was meant by Jim's "stereotype mask". By the end I got it, but it should have been more clearly defined earlier in the thesis.



Generally secondary sources are used well. In most cases they are integrated into the writing and argumentation, adding support to points being made in an effective way. The same goes for uses of the primary source. The thesis assumes the reader knows the novel, which is correct, yet the quotations remind the reader usefully of important parts of the novel as a basis for points being made. However, the thesis many times cites names of individuals or even groups of people who supposedly have the same position on a certain issue. The focus of using secondary sources should be on the texts, not the people who wrote them.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: výborně

16. 6. 2014

Datum

Podpis