



POSUDEK VEDOUcíHO 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

The thesis discusses the crucial issues of slavery and race in Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, focusing primarily on the two main characters of the novel, Huck and Jim, in relation to these issues. Adéla Staňková stresses the importance of Huck as an unreliable narrator, whose views cannot be taken for granted (Ch 1). Huck is discussed mostly in terms of his relationship to Jim, which is seen as ambiguous and, more importantly, changing and developing (Ch 2).

Celkové zhodnocení

In her thesis, Adéla Staňková deals with the central theme of *Huckleberry Finn*, which has been a subject of an extensive critical debate, yet no universally accepted critical consensus about how to interpret the controversial issues of slavery and race in the novel has been reached yet.

Within the limited space of a BA thesis, Adéla manages to sum up some of the major critical views and argue her own standpoint, which is based primarily on the close reading of the text. Her list of secondary sources is impressive and she uses her sources very efficiently. However, I appreciate very much that Adéla keeps the actual text of the novel in the centre of her attention, without losing neither the social and cultural context, nor the rich body of criticism from her sight.

The issue of the representation of slavery and race in 19th century literature is very complex and not easy to handle, especially for someone coming from a distant cultural background. The case of *Huckleberry Finn* is rather tricky, as several different perceptions of the issue play an important role both in the novel itself and in its critical reception. Adéla's treatment of the topic (which she decided to approach through the two main characters of the novel) is focused, well structured and well argued (using both primary and secondary sources to support her arguments). The chapter dealing with narrative technique would probably benefit from a closer connection to the main topic of the presentation of race (as it is it is a bit too general). Overall, this is a well written, successful thesis on an important and difficult topic and I have no hesitation in recommending it for defense.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: výborně

11. 6. 2014

Datum

Podpis