



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The Philosophy of the Tiger in the Selected Prose of William Saroyan**

Autor práce: **Matyáš Hůlka**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Einat Adar, M.A., Ph.D.**

Oponent bakalářské práce: **doc. PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

Short characteristics of the thesis

This thesis attempts to characterise William Saroyan's philosophy of life, described as the 'philosophy of the tiger' through a review of a selection of his prose works, combining close readings and a study of key intertexts. It begins with a review of Saroyan's life and writing style, then moves on to consider particular texts. The first novel discussed, *Tracy's Tiger* is the key to understanding the role of the tiger as a metaphor for an open and inclusive approach to life, providing a conceptual framework for the discussion of the following texts. Consecutive parts show how the same themes and attitudes recur in multiple works by Saroyan, with or without an explicit reference to tigers.

The author argues that Saroyan's prose is written to be read primarily through the emotions rather than through the intellect, and the figure of the tiger serves as a metaphor for the emotional world of the characters which can never be fully explained but is nevertheless precious.

Overall assessment

The requirements for a BA thesis are that students research critical material on the topic and present a summary of it. These requirements were clearly met and even exceeded by Matyáš Hůlka. His thesis is quite extensive and, moreover, original. The level of English is pretty good albeit it leaves something to be desired.

The thesis is highly original both in focus and content. It focuses on Saroyan's longer fiction and tries to interpret it coherently as a philosophy of life while using the motif of the tiger as constitutive of this philosophy.

As the opponent of the thesis, I must say I would welcome, given the topic, closer integration of the description of Saroyan's philosophy with the passage on his life. To keep them separate does not seem to me exactly fruitful.

Since Saroyan's philosophy is the main topic of the thesis and much emphasis is put on vitality, I would have appreciated at least a passing reference to the great philosophies of life that emerged at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

19. 8. 2022

Datum

Podpis