

## POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

*Jméno a příjmení studenta:* Štěpán Vavřínek  
*Název bakalářské práce:* African American Satire: Analysis of George S. Schuyler's Black No More and William M. Kelley's A Different Drummer  
*Vedoucí bakalářské práce:* PhDr. Christopher E. Koy, M. A., Ph.D.  
*Oponentka bakalářské práce:* PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem  
~~2. Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky~~  
~~3. Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný~~  
~~4. Stanovený cíl nebyl naplněn~~

II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná  
~~2. Přiměřená~~  
~~3. Uspokojivá~~  
~~4. Nevhodná~~

III. Práce s literaturou: 1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu  
~~2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu~~  
~~3. Průměrná práce s literaturou~~  
~~4. Slabá, chybná nebo nedostačující~~

IV. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům  
~~2. Obsahuje drobné formální chyby~~  
~~3. Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky~~  
~~4. Nesplňuje většinu stanovených požadavků~~

VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 1. Výborná  
~~2. Velmi dobrá~~  
~~3. Dobrá~~  
~~4. Podprůměrná~~

VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 1. Velmi vysoká  
~~2. Vysoká~~  
~~3. Střední~~  
~~4. Nízká~~

#### Vyjádření oponentky bakalářské práce:

In his bachelor thesis, Štěpán Vavřinec analyzed the works of two less-known African American authors, George S. Schuyler and W. M. Kelley. The introductory chapter deals with the history of the USA, namely the American South, after the Civil War, with all major consequences and positive or rather negative results in terms of the treatment of minorities. The historical period of the Reconstruction describes the Jim Crow Era, discrimination of the minorities and racial segregation for which the student studied and cited appropriate sources (Franklin). The chapter offers illustrative cases of racial injustice portrayed in the context of relevant citations.

The next chapter offers the authors' biographies based on Schuyler's autobiography and a dissertation by Williams. The student has a potential to view the theme of racism with a critical insight both on the general level with respect to history and on the personal level of the authors' biographical details. He thus sees Schuyler as a critic of the 1960s civil rights movement, and more specifically W. M. Kelley in the light of his critique of Martin L. King Jr. The student explains the reasons why and how Kelley encountered the concept of race in the predominantly white community in New York, how he almost achieved prestigious education due to his intelligence, and portrays the author's life in Europe and Jamaica after which he reached the academic career and became a writer.

A substantial part of the bachelor thesis centers on satire, its methods, subject matter (politics) and purpose. It provides a variety of examples of satirical works (Ancient Egypt, Greek drama), as well as the foundations of modern literature since Jonathan Swift. Types of satire are distinguished (Horace, Juvenal), the latter initiating social or political change, being characterized as darker, bitter and evil, with one more example of the Menippean type as written e.g. by Lewis Carroll.

The core of the bachelor thesis gives a detailed analysis of Schuyler's novel *Black No More*, 1931, defining it as a product of early sci-fi, an allegorical novel and anti-utopia satirizing e.g. the actions of KKK and NAACP. After introducing the plot and providing a major character analysis, the student cites primary sources properly to support his analysis with his own reading. A subchapter then discusses race as a problematic social and political phenomenon with respect to the purpose of Schuyler's satirical approach and his personal political stance towards racism. Anti-miscegenation laws are mentioned, providing a map of the states supporting the law in the South till 1967 and focusing further on facts from relevant secondary sources. The author of the bachelor thesis highlights other elements that Schuyler satirized in his novel (religion, elections, ignorance) resulting in the lack of education, violence and crowd manipulation. Attention is paid to class differentiation as a racial divide and overall oppression of the working class.

In the plot summary of W. M. Kelley's novel *A Different Drummer*, a set of allegorical characters is introduced, emphasizing the aim of the satirical elements. Kelley portrays a fictional Black Exodus, a character named Caliban, and the white perspective of the consequences of the Black Exodus. References to biblical myths and the ideals of freedom are discussed in depth, which relates to Štěpán's full understanding of the two novels as well the general problematics corresponding to the theme of the bachelor thesis. According to the structural scheme of the bachelor thesis, race relations and slavery in the South are raised as major issues of Kelley's literary fiction, with the emphasis on the "invisibility" of the African Americans, the mentality of the white people and racial and social stereotypes.

The bachelor thesis offers an extensive and deep analysis of the selected topic, written in English in appropriate language and style and only minor grammatical inconsistencies. The author showed thorough knowledge of the problem of race and racism through the works of

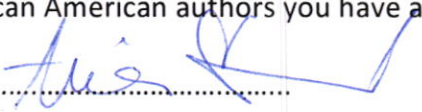
minor African American authors whose works he was able to define and distinguish from one another.

Práce splňuje podmínky stanovené pro tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. What do you think was the reason the African American authors "satirized famous Black figures"? (BP, 13) What is your attitude to the authors' criticism of M. L. King and the 1960s liberalism?
2. Both authors came from the Northeast USA, how can they have a deeper insight into the American South and understand the "relations between races" in the South?
3. Would you discuss the significance of the characters' names in Black No More (Bunny, Snobbcraft and Buggerie)?
4. If you happen to know Malorie Blackman's YA novel Noughts and Crosses, can you find similarities with the texts of African American authors you have analysed?

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce: 

Datum: 26. 7. 2022