

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Jaroslav Bouda

Název bakalářské práce: The Dragon Motif in the Work of J.R.R. Tolkien and Christopher Paolini/Motiv draka v díle J.R.R. Tolkiena a Christophera Paoliniho

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Kamila Vránková, 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, Jaroslav Bouda explored the dragon motif in the works of J. R. R. Tolkien and Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Cycle. The structure of the thesis corresponds with an academic work in its theoretical part in which Jaroslav Bouda introduces a variety of mythologies with respect to the theme and topic. The thesis enlists the existence of the dragon motif in Norse and Ancient mythology, regarding the symbolic occurrence of the dragon in relation to the human heroes of the mythologies, respectively. Further on, medieval dragon legends and first literary monuments are mentioned, in comparison with Chinese mythology which portrays dragons in a different symbolic and overall literary function. The theoretical part of the thesis relies on relevant critical secondary sources (Carpenter, Garth, Sturluson) and reflects the author's thorough knowledge of both primary and secondary literature. Both in the theoretical and interpretational part of the thesis, the author puts emphasis on the dragons' features, qualities, attributes and symbolic functions which will be compared in the selected works of the practical part, i.e. in the core of the literary analysis. As a part of the comparative analysis, Jaroslav traces the differences of pagan belief and Christian religion in the perception of the dragon motif. He offers a careful analysis of various stories from Norse and Greek mythology (Jason, the hydra, Hesperides, the Colchian dragon) which influenced the variety of dragon forms in modern fantasy and popular culture. He covers the differences in the Western approach to mythology and Eastern cultures, distinguishing not only the variety of the dragons' physical features and powerful potential but also their general association with either goodness or evil.

The second chapter focuses on essential biographical information about J. R. R. Tolkien and Christopher Paolini, offering an excellent analysis of relevant biographical facts with regard to the authors' works of fantasy. Here I must appreciate Jaroslav's critical view and a reasonable approach to both Tolkien's and Paolini's lives as his analysis relies upon literary influences on both authors with an ability to stand apart and express critical judgement. A substantial number of secondary sources is used in this part of the thesis (Tinkler, Burns), offering an affinity of the authors' lives, interests and their literary and linguistic studies. An obvious connection between Tolkien and Paolini as Tolkien's literary follower becomes apparent not only through the dragon motif. Attention is paid to the similarities of the fictitious regions the authors created in their works as well as to the population of the fantastic characters.

The core of the literary analysis offers a splendid and detailed comparison of the dragon motif in the works of J. R. R. Tolkien (Silmarillion, The Hobbit, LOTR, among others) and Paolini's Inheritance Cycle. The analysis concentrates on the influence of medieval and Norse mythology upon Tolkien and Tolkien's major works as Paolini's inspirational source. Nevertheless, the concluding part of the thesis provides an original and inspirational distinction of the understanding of Paolini's and Tolkien's notion of dragons in their works of the high fantasy genre.

The thesis is written in English in appropriate and high standard academic style, with the occurrence of only minor grammatical errors (p. 17, 21) and formal inconsistencies in citing (p. 12).

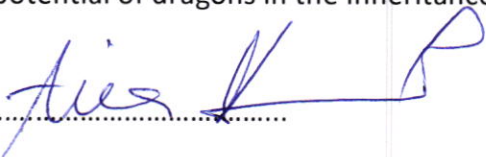
I sincerely recommend the thesis for the defense not only for its originality and consistency but also because of its practicality and use for further readers.

Práce splňuje nejen základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. How would you interpret Eustace's transformation into a dragon in Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia with respect to the symbolic function of dragons in the works of literary fantasy?
2. How would you summarize Tolkien's use of magic in his works of fantasy in comparison with the magical potential of dragons in the Inheritance cycle?

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce: 

Datum: 21. 7. 2022