

JIHOČESKÁ UNIVERZITA V ČESKÝCH BUDĚJOVICÍCH
Pedagogická fakulta
Katedra anglistiky

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Bc. Kristýna Mykytyn
Název diplomové práce: Postmodern Space in Contemporary British Fiction (Graham Swift)/ Pojetí prostoru v současné britské próze (Graham Swift)
Vedoucí diplomové práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.
Oponent diplomové práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, M.A., Ph.D.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění:

1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
- ~~2. Cíl práce byl adekvátní, ale jen částečně naplněný~~
- ~~3. Stanovený cíl nebyl naplněn~~

II. Struktura práce:

1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- ~~2. Přiměřená~~
- ~~3. Nevhodná~~

III. Práce s literaturou:

1. Výborná: zvoleny a použity vhodné prameny v patřičném rozsahu, přesná práce s citacemi, kritická analýza zdrojů
- ~~2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu~~
- ~~3. Průměrná práce s literaturou~~
- ~~4. Slabá, chybná nebo nedostačující~~

IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat:

1. Systematická, logická prezentace, originální a důsledná interpretace
- ~~2. Dobrá prezentace dat, úspěšný pokus o jejich interpretaci~~
- ~~3. Neodpovídající prezentace, nedostatečná analýza výsledků~~

V. Formální stránka:

1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
2. Obsahuje drobné formální chyby
- ~~3. Nesplňuje některé stanovené požadavky~~
- ~~4. Nesplňuje většinu stanovených požadavků~~

VI. Jazyk práce:

- a) Po stránce stylistické 1) výborná

2) velmi dobrá
~~3) nevyhovující~~

b) Po stránce lexikálně-gramatické 1) výborná
~~2) velmi dobrá~~
~~3) nevyhovující~~

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

VIII. Přínosy práce: 1. Originální zpracování a názory, předkládá nová zjištění
~~2. Průměrné~~
~~3. Nedostatečné, práce nemá jasný přínos pro obor~~

Vyjádření vedoucí diplomové práce:

Based on her interest in contemporary British fiction, which Kristýna Mykytyn analysed in her bachelor thesis, the focus of her final diploma thesis centres upon the selected prose of Graham Swift and his understanding of space, namely the landscape of the Fens in *Waterland* and the general postmodern approach to space in a minor piece of fiction *Out of This World*.

The first, theoretical part of the thesis specifies the differences between the two literary periods of British Modernism and 20th century postmodern literature. The experimental structure of both modernism and postmodern literature is seen through the perspective of the war experience (WWI, WWII, respectively), industrialization, consumerism, social and political changes of the two respective periods of the 20th century. The role of social liberalization and emphasis on regionalism is highlighted with respect to the interpretational analysis in the second part of the thesis. The key concepts specified for Swift's postmodern approach to literature are defined as metafiction, intertextuality, faction and playfulness. The theoretical part of the thesis further introduces the characteristics of contemporary British fiction based on relevant secondary sources. Within the characteristics, broad terms such as the English novel, British fiction, postcolonial literature and literature of the Commonwealth are distinguished. The following chapter focuses on the definitions of space in the understanding of French philosophers (Lefebvre, Foucault), more specifically with respect to the notion of the spatial turn and the production of space. The foundations of the theoretical approach, including temporal distortion, draws upon the studies of P. Smethurst, D. James, Balshaw and Kennedy (*Urban Space and Representation*). The last but also significant theoretical passage is devoted to the use of the term chronotope according to Bakhtin and Smethurst (*The Postmodern Chronotope*).

The interpretational analysis centres upon Swift's problematizing of history, the sense of place and placelessness and globalisation in a confrontation with other contemporary British authors (Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, Salman Rushdie, Martin Amis). Relevant secondary sources (D. Head, D. Malcolm, M. Moseley) are used in this part of the thesis. Another chapter deals with the criticism of Graham Swift's works of fiction and the further focus of chapter 6 and 7 is on Swift's novels *Waterland* and *Out of This World* where the concept of the structure of postmodern spaces becomes relevant both in the theoretical approach and

practical analysis. Emphasis is put on Swift's sense of paradoxical understanding of both personal and family history and global historical events and narrative. In Swift's approach to the construction of space, the sense of the present and the past become significant with respect to spatial historiography. The role of the landscape features of the Fens becomes associated with the element of memory and forgetting about the past. The issue of temporality and the author's scepticism about the idea of progress is also confronted in Swift's novel *Out of This World*. Specific motifs and themes such as photography and human identity form the core of the second part of the literary analysis. However, Graham Swift's *Waterland* seems to be the crucial discussion point as for the understanding of space and space-time relations.

Kristýna Mykytyn has chosen an exceptionally broad and theoretically a very demanding topic for her final thesis. She demonstrated thorough knowledge of both primary and secondary sources related to her thesis that she seems to have read with enthusiasm and care for the general matters that do not concern only literature but our understanding of the world. Her final thesis becomes an elaborate extensive piece of academic writing which deserves to be read and studied more intensively. Kristýna's own original analyses are well-written and cover the themes in an appropriate length with respect to the specific field of interest. Apart from minor formal mistakes in the arrangement of primary sources the thesis is a remarkable achievement.

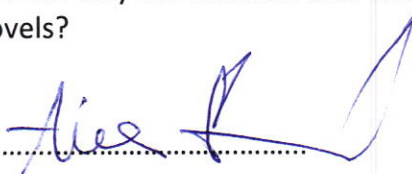
Práce splňuje všechny požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: 1. výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. Do the authors you enlisted in the introductory part of the thesis (Wain, Amis, Braine, Golding) represent the experimental postmodern approach to literature?
2. Could you give particular examples of Swift's usage of intertextuality which you defined in the theoretical part of the thesis?
3. What is the major difference in the way Ian McEwan and Graham Swift perceive and construct the space of their novels?

Podpis vedoucí diplomové práce:



Datum: 21. 7. 2022