

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Alena Knížová

Název bakalářské práce: Marriage and the Female Characters in the selected novels of Daphne du Maurier

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 her bachelor thesis, Alena Knížová decided to analyse selected novels by Daphne du Maurier, regarding the point of view of female characters, further considering the themes of their life in marriage and consequent constraints. The first chapter introduces the genre of the Gothic novel based on relevant sources (Punter, Hogle, Mullan), specifically the aspects of the female Gothic (Wallace) and Victorian Gothic (Smith, Hughes). The theoretical part relies on citing secondary sources properly, providing adequate definitions of the Gothic approach to literature (Botting, Aguirre, *The Closed Space*). The following chapter offers characteristics of the Victorian novel with respect to gender, emphasizing the concept of the female Gothic and the genre of romance in Gothic literature. Attention is paid to the location and setting of Gothic novels, the atmosphere of darkness and mystery, including the presence of supernatural forces. With respect to the topic of the thesis, Gothic heroines in relations to men are introduced as well as the Gothic element of power and constraint that affect the heroines in isolated settings. The major representatives who established the context of the Gothic novel are introduced in connection with the Gothic motifs and themes (Walpole, Radcliffe, Maturin, Lewis).

The thesis further concentrates on du Maurier's Gothic inspiration in Victorian literature, establishing a link between the Bronte sisters' major novels and the selected works of du Maurier (*Jamaica Inn*, *Rebecca*). As the chapter demonstrates, the heritage of Victorian novelists lays the groundwork of the research of the thesis (the Bronte sisters and the Gothic elements of their novels, the aspect of female equality, independence vs. discrimination). An excellent comparison is drawn between the heroines of C. Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and the main protagonist of *Jamaica Inn*. In this part of the thesis, Alena Knížová proves thorough knowledge of the literary context of the 19th and 20th century novels, considering the influence of Jane Austen's writing on the female literary canon.

The core of the interpretational analysis of the works of D. du Maurier focuses on the theme of love, attraction, marriage, fidelity, and the heroine's desire for union. In the selected novels of D. du Maurier, the author of the thesis offers a detailed character analysis of Mary Yellan and Aunt Patience from *Jamaica Inn* with respect to the selected themes and motifs, citing primary sources accordingly. The following chapter of the analysis deals with the characters of *Rebecca* and Mrs. Denvers, further defining the characters' feelings of hopelessness, their power struggle with male characters, the conflicts, manipulation, abuse, and the major female character's dualism. A side chapter is then devoted to Susan Hill's *Mrs. de Winter*, in a comparison of the sequel to *Rebecca*, tracing the acceptance of fate of particular characters and the heroines dependent on their husbands.

The themes of heroines trapped in marriage, their passions, freedom and desire are further discussed in du Maurier's novel *Frenchman's Creek* and *The King's General*. The overall structure of the thesis relies on an original pattern of selected motifs, using an extensive number of primary sources related not only to the topic of the thesis but also to the specific context of English literary history. The bachelor thesis is an excellent proof of the student's progress in the course of her bachelor studies and I sincerely recommend the work for the defense.

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

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. What was the major inspirational source of your bachelor thesis in terms of primary sources?
2. Is the unnamed heroine in Rebecca fighting for her life like Mary Yellan in Jamaica Inn?
3. Do you consider Rebecca a physically present heroine or a ghostlike appearance in the eponymous novel?

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce:.....

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized cursive letters, positioned over the dotted line for the signature.

Datum: 9. 5. 2023