

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Bc. Michaela Matějovská
Název diplomové práce: Race and Gender in the Selected Works of Toni Morrison
Vedoucí diplomové práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.
Oponent diplomové práce: PhDr. Kamila Vránková, 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) dobrá~~
 - ~~4) 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:

In her diploma thesis, Bc. Michaela Matějovská explored the role of race and gender in the works of the most outstanding African American female author Toni Morrison.

In the introductory part, Michaela provides a thorough overview of African American literature from the historical perspective, discussing a variety of genres in modern American literature including African American science fiction and drama according to relevant secondary sources (Andrews, Mitchell). Her focus then shifts to African American female authors where she also relies on relevant secondary sources (Williams, Foster). In the second chapter, she concentrates on a consistent analysis of Toni Morrison's works biography using appropriate quotations including Morrison's own theoretical works (The Origin of Others).

The following part concentrates on central themes in Toni Morrison's works; first offers general characteristics of race and racism with its American specifics, the psychology of racism in the USA and its relation to gender. This part mentions relevant secondary sources (Chakravarty) that focus namely on Toni Morrison's works of fiction. Here the essential themes of Morrison's works are specified (the problematic notion of womanhood, motherhood, female friendship as a means of survival, migration and slavery). Using appropriate secondary sources, Michaela is able to see Morrison's work in the context of modern American literature, considering the literature of American South and the white canon. The theoretical chapter further introduces the African American attitude to religion mentioning the theoretical Christian concept of Jesus being black and the consequences of the idea. The role of media in the overall image and position of the African American minority in the American society, the passive approach, ignorance and denial in the perception of the minority are analysed.

Aiming at the interpretation of Toni Morrison's theoretical works and essays, the thesis tries to define the author's critical opinions and attitudes towards the serious issues of slavery, thus providing a complex and thorough overview of the topic from the historical perspective and also gives insight into the situation of minorities from the present point of view of the American society.

The next part of the thesis focuses on the form of the slave narrative which pervades the beginnings of African American fiction as well as the contemporary works of the neoslave narrative. Introduced by the theoretical approach of J. Moody, the thesis further emphasizes

the female experience and the treatment of women who experienced even more intensified forms of personal tragedies. A unique chapter summarizes the contribution of African culture in African American literature and hints at the role of magical realism in Morrison's aesthetics. Here the thesis works with an extensive number of secondary sources (Atkinson, Francis, Connor), introducing the foundations of African oral tradition of the narrative and the role of women in the narrative.

The interpretational analysis relies on the critical overview of the selected topics of race and gender in three major novels by the author (The Bluest Eye, Beloved, God Help the Child). Each chapter of the interpretational analysis provides essential information of the novel's background, synopsis and particular themes and symbols. The author of the thesis works with the concept of internalized racism, providing a detailed study of secondary sources and citing primary sources. i.e. the three selected novels adequately. Finally, the concepts of female beauty, family trauma and identity come into question of the analysis of Morrison's last novel, God Help the Child.

In her diploma thesis, Michaela demonstrated detailed academic knowledge and expressed a deep understanding of the sensitive topic of gender and racism in African American literature. The diploma thesis is a piece of the author's qualified analyses of secondary sources and a well-written and structured academic work.

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

Navrhovaná klasifikace: 1. výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. How would you explain the metaphor in Beloved in which Morrison "kidnaps the reader" in order to share the experience of slavery, as some critics claim?
2. What is the role of religion or belief in Morrison's work? Can we define religious symbolism in the novel God Help the Child?
3. Can we trace radicalism in Morrison's approach to the treatment of the African American folk within American society, besides the passive resistance, ignorance and denial you mention in your thesis?
4. What seems to be a more serious issue in The Bluest Eye, racism, or sexual abuse within the community?

Podpis vedoucí diplomové práce: 

Datum: 9. 5. 2023