

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Tereza Mašková

Název bakalářské práce: Short Stories of the American Civil War / Povídky o americké občanské válce

Oponent bakalářské práce: Mgr. Renata Janktová, MA, PhD.

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 naplněn
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:

The thesis examines the portrayals of the American Civil War and its immediate aftermath in a selection of texts to reveal how their authors' creative approaches to the subject grasp the complex impact of the war on individuals, local communities and the American society. In this respect, the thesis has achieved its objective. Ms Mašková has read the stories and identified the main themes and issues addressed. She shows that it is to a great extent the question of the character cast, which include persons who usually stand at the margins of military conflicts but who are severely affected by them, most notably children and women. The narrative voice and perspective are equally important, as shown for example in "Riposte in Tertio" and "Cecily's Dream". Ms Mašková draws attention to the contrast between official war narratives foregrounding courage and glory, and personal experience, which more frequently than not involves horror, suffering and loss. In Ambrose Bierce's "Chickamauga", it is demonstrated in the realist depictions of combat horror and a child's inability to grasp the brutal reality. In "Cecily's Dream", racial division is identified as the dominant theme: the critical moment of Cecily's decision-making upon discovering the wounded soldier is noted and illustrated using a quote from the text, but regrettably, no further comment is added. What does the situation of Cecily's instinctive urge to help a fellow human being nearly thwarted by the learned negotiation of skin colour suggest about racial divisions? In Faulkner, Ms Mašková recognises the theme of moral struggle in the extreme situation of an existential threat experienced by a powerless, disenfranchised member of society. However, no critical thought is added. So, while the main themes and forms of representation in the individual texts are identified and eventually summarised in the Conclusion, the analytical section remains predominantly descriptive and even the well-chosen quotes from the primary texts are not used for further discussion. Yet this is not the main deficit of the thesis. The key problem is the quality of presentation. The thesis has the feel of a rushed piece of work, almost careless at times. Not only is the language quality below the average expected at bachelor level, but there are also unnecessary flaws such as repetitions of words, missing words in sentences, and missing or misplaced punctuation. (Even the Czech resumé is full of basic errors.) The theoretical section is very short, especially the subchapter on the history of Civil War, which lacks any footing in secondary literature. Subchapter 1.2 on the War and American literature is based mainly on poorly referenced online Britannica information. There are numerous flaws in referencing, especially in marking secondary quotations, inconsistency in quotation formatting (use of italics, quotation marks) and incorrect, confusing references (e.g. Hassler, Weber, Jennifer, 2022). The formatting of Bibliography is very "reader-unfriendly". As a result, I can only give this thesis a narrow pass.

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

Navrhovaná známka: dobře

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. In your view, how important is an author's personal combat experience for the quality of their war writing (cf. Bierce's scepticism, addressed in Schaefer)?
2. What are the pros and cons of a first-person and a third-person narratives in war writing? Please comment using examples from your primary texts.

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce:..... Datum: 8.8. 2022