



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura (dvouoborové studium)**

Název práce: **Double life in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the author's life**

Autorka práce: **Lucie Pospíšilová**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Einat Adar, M.A., Ph.D.**

Oponent bakalářské práce: **doc. PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

Short characteristics of the thesis

This thesis tackles the subject of duality in Oscar Wilde's life and writing. The first part of the thesis provides ample historical and biographical background, showing how duality was an inherent to the Victorian period and especially to those who were not heterosexual, such as Wilde. The second part of the thesis studies the dual life in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, focusing naturally on the main character and his externalised reflection, but also covering other characters such as Basil and Lord Henry.

Overall assessment

The writer of this thesis should be commended for her ability to tackle a central topic in the life and writing of a canonic author and present a coherent and nuanced argument. Starting from the initial interest in the Victorian period and Wilde's experience, Lucie has been able to study in depth the relevant materials and issues, as can be seen from the extensive bibliography. Moreover, she has not only manifested an ability to conduct independent research of the direct topics, but also an awareness of possible theoretical and methodological issue in connection with the specific topic as presented in chapter 2 about the double more generally. The thesis is further written to a high linguistic and academic standard.

Overall, the thesis shows how Wilde draws on his own experience in describing his characters and their way of life although the actual acts described in the novel are different from Wilde's. The novel concretises the metaphor of the "double self" in the portrait which reflects Dorian's inner soul, but the necessity to hide one's true nature is not limited to the eponymous character. As the thesis shows, leading a double life is seen as the standard in the novel, with both Basil and Lord Henry hiding their true character and desires. As the author concludes, leading a double life out of necessity or choice is not limited to the Victorian period and continues to be relevant to our contemporary world, which makes Wilde's exploration of the theme important.

At the end of the thesis the writer suggests two possibilities for pursuing the current research – by looking at the theme of duality in additional works by Wilde, and by delving deeper into the Victorian background, which are both worth pursuing. I would add to this the possible comparison with other Victorian novels such as *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, who was a friend of Wilde's and much affected by the trial.



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Podpis