

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Simona Kalinová

Název bakalářské práce: Ian McEwan's Fictional Portrayals of Female Heroines

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.

Oponentka bakalářské práce: PhDr. Christopher E. Koy, 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 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 vedoucí bakalářské práce:

The bachelor thesis focuses on the Cold War in Britain since the 1960s, its political, social and cultural consequences and should consider the influence of the era on the main protagonists of Ian McEwan's novels *Sweet Tooth*, *On Chesil Beach* and *The Comfort of Strangers*. A short introductory chapter mentions the life and major works of the author, further providing a context of the Cold War as presented in McEwan's novels which are set in the second half of the 20th century Britain. The general characteristic of McEwan's works is based on two major secondary sources (D. Malcolm, D. Head), incorporating particular minor studies by various authors (Ellam, Shah, Root).

The thesis works with the theme of history of the Cold War intensively in Chapters 4 - 7, stating the political consequences of the conflict, its progress through the decades, and the social and cultural impact of the Cold War on Britain. The thesis works with a substantial number of sources which are cited in each paragraph, properly. As for Chapter 6 which deals with the involvement of Britain in the conflict and the social and political climate in the UK, there are some formal inconsistencies when citing secondary sources (p. 25 – 28) as they do not correspond with the sources mentioned in each particular reference (reference 85 - 103). In the structure of the thesis, there seems to be an artificial discrepancy between the theoretical part related to the Cold War era and the interpretive analysis which does not work with the theoretical postulates listed in the first part. The second part of the thesis appears to be written mechanically, regardless of the theoretical starting point, i.e. the Cold War influence on the English people.

Based on the method of close reading, the core of the thesis (Chapter 8) provides numerous detailed physical and personal characteristics of heroines in McEwan's novels, supported by lengthy quotations from the selected novels. (E.g. page 59 covers only the primary source quotations.) The interpretive analysis considers the women's behaviour in the decades of the Cold War period in England providing examples from the life situations of the main characters in comparison with side or minor characters including the male counterparts of the heroines. The main focus is on personal relationships of selected characters from *The Comfort of Strangers*, *On Chesil Beach* and *Sweet Tooth*, which represent McEwan's early and later (21st century) poetics and writing style, respectively.

The Comfort of Strangers offers a comparison between two major female protagonists and their male counterparts, stressing the deviation of human behavior from the norm, mistreatment and violence in intimate relationships. *On Chesil Beach* places the novel in the context of cultural and sexual liberation and the issue of marriage in the 1960s. *Sweet Tooth* is classified as a spy novel as the main heroine is involved in MI5 operations, working for the secret service.

In conclusion, the thesis traces the differences between McEwan's early themes (*The Comfort of Strangers*, 1981) and his more recent novels (*Sweet Tooth*, 2012, *On Chesil Beach*, 2007) which document the shift of his interests towards social and political issues of the Cold War that changed his attitude to writing.

In spite of some formal inconsistencies (capitalizing in the names of chapters, citing, p. 27, 79), the thesis reflects more than a piece of academic work of a B. A. candidate, specifically in the language and style of the thesis.

Práce je napsána na vynikající profesionální úrovni v oblasti jazykové kompetence z hlediska slovní zásoby, užití anglického jazyka a akademického stylu psaní. Existuje podezření, že práce přesahuje jazykové kompetence studentů bakalářského studia a nejedná se tedy o práci studentky, která ji odevzdala.

Prokáže-li se, že autorkou práce je studentka, splňuje práce základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Celkové hodnocení práce: velmi dobře

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. What are the changes in McEwan's early and later writing style as stated in the thesis and its structure?
2. In the novels that were selected for the thesis, what do McEwan's heroines have in common and in what ways do they differ from one another?
3. What is the significance of Chesil Beach in McEwan's 2007 novel?
4. Which novel you have read reflects on the Cold War most intensively?

Datum: 18. 8. 2023

Podpis vedoucí bakalářské práce:.....

