

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Martina Davidová
Název diplomové práce: Film and Television Adaptations of Oscar Wilde's Novel
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Vedoucí diplomové práce: PhDr. Christopher Koy, M.A., Ph.D.
Oponentka diplomové práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.

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| <u>I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění:</u> | 2. Cíl práce byl naplněn s drobnými nedostatky |
| <u>II. Struktura práce:</u> | 3. Uspokojivá |
| <u>III. Práce s literaturou:</u> | 3. Průměrná práce s literaturou |
| <u>IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat:</u> | 2. Velmi dobrá prezentace dat, úspěšný pokus o jejich interpretaci |
| <u>V. Formální stránka:</u> | 3. Nesplňuje některé zásadní požadavky |
| <u>VI. Jazyková úroveň práce:</u> | 3. Dobrá |
| <u>VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu:</u> | 3. Střední |

Vyjádření vedoucího diplomové práce/oponenta diplomové práce*:

Allow me to write that I am disappointed. To me at least, film adaptations of this novel is a topic that could have been done so much better and, if I may even make the assertion, was not such a „boring“ topic regarding a major classic (it is frequently taught and read in American high schools). First off, it would have been nice for me to see much more of this bachelor thesis before Ms. Davidova handed it in. It has embarrassing mistakes, and not just a few, and these errors are not merely language (grammar/spelling) mistakes – they make me question what Ms. Davidova has done here. Let me specify.

In the „zadáni“ Ms. Davidova has literature listed which she did not use, like Harold Bloom's edited casebook on Wilde, Bennett's great book, Karpenko, Seagrott and Raitt. These are renowned scholars, or experts on Oscar Wilde, and the journals these articles appeared in are very hard to get published in because the editors hold extremely high demands of quality. I gave Ms. Davidova .pdf files plus my own hard copies. Why in the world didn't Ms. Davidova use them? They are listed on the official zadani for a reason. What was used instead? Let's take a look, shall we?

Rather than Yale professor Harold Bloom, Ms. Davidova extensively quotes Shantanu Siulu, a graduate (M.A.) of the University of Calcutta but without his Ph.D., quoting him eleven (11) times from his 8-page article published in *IJELLH*. His article makes extensive use of Wikipedia (as he indicates honestly in his bibliography), but the way Ms. Davidova represents his article in her bibliography (pp. 45-46), one might believe it is a monograph since the title of the article is put in italics but the journal from Bhopal, India, is never named (as she does with other articles). Instead, Ms. Davidova merely indicates that the text was obtained or (I should write) downloaded from the online platform Researchgate, information which does not belong in the bibliography. Ms. Davidova quoted this 8-page text a total of eleven times. Next, from an author teaching at Salahaddin University (Iraq), Chro Muhammad Saeed's 12 page article is a chapter from his M.A. thesis earned at Erbil Polytechnic University in Iraq, but at least it appeared in the prestigious journal *Alustath* (meaning "creativity" in Arabic) published by Baghdad University, a journal dedicated among other things to „the sciences of the Holy Qur'an“ so obviously no mention of the taboo subjects covered in the early pages of this BP appeared there. It is quoted/cited by Ms Davidova eight times. In Ms. Davidova's bibliography, she lists the article's pages from 554 to 558, but her very first quote from him is cited as p. 551 on the footnote (p. 5). **This is so sloppy and an embarrassment since I have my name listed as supervisor!!!** It looked so awful so that is why I downloaded my own copy, and the article is revolting but I won't digress further.

After Siulu and Saeed we get Beibei Guan (I hope I don't have to pronounce that first name at the defense), a scholar teaching at Harbin Institute of Technology in Shanzhen. In the bibliography, Ms. Davidova fails to mention how short this article is since unlike Saeed's article, no pagination is mentioned. Ekb al-Jabbari, who teaches at Zarqa University in Jordan, published his seven (7) page article in what looks like a predatory journal. Need I continue? Why were these M.A. theses-based articles from India, China, Iraq and Jordan used and extensively quoted from as if they constituted major scholarship instead of the texts Ms Davidova had from me? It baffles the mind. Let's go on...

The stereotypical issues of the Victorian Era are presented without mentioning which literature Wilde and others were specifically revolting against, but just characterizing those works. (She might have mentioned for instance Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Queen Victoria's favorite poet.) The hypocrisy of the Victorian era's status of women is well covered, and though not critiqued quite as harshly in *Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde as much as in his plays like, for instance, *Lady Windemere's Fan*. Dandyism is covered by a London book on dandies by Barbey D'Aurevilly, published in 1897, before Wilde death. Possibly Ms. Davidova could have found something more recent, but instead she used the same quote employed by Beibei Guan. I suppose homosexuality might have been covered in a bit more detail since reviewers noted its hardly concealed expression (Lord Henry, Basil and Dorian himself) in *Dorian Gray*, and it was why Wilde was later prosecuted and imprisoned. On a DVD I gave to Ms Davidova the descendants of Wilde (named Holland) are interviewed in the 1980s showing inside biographical information; she might have integrated that into her discussion on p. 16.

Starting on p. 20 (4.1) I can vaguely recognize for the first time something I have read from a year or two ago. On a different issue, I do not get how after 4.1 Ms. Davidova's next subchapter is labeled "4.2.14" and continues this bizarre "subsubchapter" number sequencing all the way to the end of the bachelor thesis. The interpreting effort of Wilde's novel has a few weak moments. For example, on p. 23 Ms. Davidova writes that "Opium den symbolizes an escape from the cruel reality, which Dorian attempts to forget." Ignoring the faulty English for a moment, the kind of activity in an opium den, getting high, does not

symbolize an escape but constitutes the site of physiologically escaping reality. The mind under that condition cannot grasp many aspects of reality anymore. Hence where that activity takes place is not a symbol any more than a classroom "symbolizes" education.

On p. 24 the description of Lord Henry Wooton should be at least three times longer and much more penetrating of his character and sophisticated life philosophy, but Wooton gets fewer words than Syble Vane, whose appearance in the novel is short-lived (no pun intended).

Moving on to the film adaptation section, Ms. Davidova jumps from the silent 1915 film all the way to the 2003 „Pact with the Devil“ film, but the title of the thesis includes a **television** adaptation which means the wonderful BBC production on a dvd which I lent to her. It is not analyzed here at all. Why not??? That is not good.

Malcolm McDowell, playing Harry Wooton, behaves quite differently – he not only talks, but unlike the novel he organizes and manipulates and pro-actively shapes the whole plot (unlike the Wooton character in the novel by Wilde who mostly just talks powerfully). I would have preferred reading more about these very significant changes, and Ms. Davidova's opinion or surmised justification for them (pp. 33-37). As later adaptations get „analyzed“ it appears that Ms Davidova runs out of energy to focus on smaller details and just revisits the larger commonalities: „The character of Dorian Gray remains the same in both, novel and this film adaptation. Dorian inherited blue eyes and blond curly hairs, becomes an orphan and his pure soul gets spoiled by the bad influence of his companion Mr. Wooton...“ (p. 35).

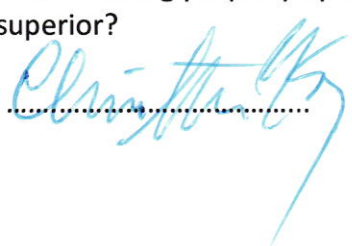
To sum up, problems of diction the details I'll leave unmentioned here, along with a missing BBC television adaptation promised in the title of this bachelor thesis, not to mention not using secondary literature specially chosen by me and listed in the official zadani, leads me to designate, perhaps too generously, the effort as a dobře.

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

Navrhovaná známka: dobře

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. Recapitulate old Lord Henry Wooton's philosophy which ruins Dorian. How would you argue against him?
2. Which film, in your opinion, represented the character Henry Wooton best/worst?
3. Given the acceptance, by and large, of LGBT rights nearly all over Europe and USA, why is this novel still relevant today?
4. Do you think the 2003 adaptation with the New York setting properly updated Wilde story to younger audiences, or is the novel still superior?

Podpis vedoucího diplomové práce bakalářské práce*: 

Datum: 18. 8. 2023

*nehodící se škrtněte