



## POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura – Německý jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **Feminism in *The Scarlet Letter* and comparing Hester Prynne with Margaret Fuller's writings in *Woman in the Nineteenth Century***

Autorka práce: **Tereza Konopková**

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

Oponentka bakalářské práce: **doc. PhDr. Mariana Machová, Ph.D.**

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### Quality of Research

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1(insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

The topic of the thesis is suitable for the scope and well defined: 3

Sets clear goals or questions for research: 3

Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy: 3

Demonstrates a good understanding of the literary work(s) discussed: 3

Engages with the subject critically and analytically: 2

Uses relevant scholarship meaningfully: 2

2) Comment shortly on the quality of the research presented in the thesis:

The thesis presents the results of a clearly defined research project with convincing results. The reading of the novel could have been a bit more nuanced, perhaps with the help of additional scholarly sources.

### Quality of Writing

1) Please rate the following statements about the thesis on a scale of 1(insufficient) to 3 (excellent)

Has a clear and suitable structure: 3

Employs appropriate register and academic style: 3

Uses correct and relevant terminology: 3

Adheres to academic thesis guidelines, format and MLA style guide: 3

Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary): 2

Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes: 3

2) Comment shortly on the quality of the writing presented in the thesis:

The thesis is generally fluent and adheres to academic conventions. There are still some linguistic issues that need to be ironed out, for example, when Hester is seen 'merely as a subject' (p.30) when the author clearly means that she is seen as an object.



### Overall Review and Assessment

The thesis examines whether Hester Prynne in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter* could be seen as a feminist figure in the context of 19<sup>th</sup> century feminism. There is an ongoing debate in the research about the extent to which the novel can be considered as a feminist work, and the current project brings a historical approach to bear on the question by comparing the protagonist's behaviour with the writings of Margaret Fuller who inspired her character. This comparison shows that the novel addresses many of the issues described in Fuller's *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, however the choices and motivations of Hawthorne's character differ from Fuller's ideal of equality between men and women, and that Hester's strength is better described in transcendentalist rather than feminist terms.

As the supervisor, I would like to say it was a pleasure to see the dedication and openness Tereza brought to the project. After the original consultation about the topic, she has developed the methodology of the thesis on her own and have worked independently to develop her own argument in the thesis. The result is a coherent discussion that shows the strong influence of feminism on the work, alongside some of the ways in which it falls short of feminist precepts.

What I would have liked to see, however, is a more nuanced literary reading of the novel. The current work focuses on Hester's actions and words, but pays little attention to the style and narrative structure of the novel. For example, the fact that the text only narrates events that have happened in Boston, thus putting the community at the centre of attention rather than Hester, or the famous indeterminacy of meaning in the novel which undermines any firm conclusion.

### Questions for Defence

1. In your conclusion, you find that Hester's character follows transcendentalist principles rather than feminist, could you compare this with the transcendentalist themes in Fuller's work, especially her ideal union between husband and wife?
2. Could you discuss the style of the novel in relation to your analysis of the feminist issues in the work? Do you find that Hawthorne is trying to stir his readers towards a specific position?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

18. 8. 2023

Datum

Podpis