

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Daniel Zmykalo

Název bakalářské práce: Arthur Ransome, a Children's Author? Swallows, Amazons and the Lake District

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, PhD.

Oponentka 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 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 oponentky bakalářské práce:

The bachelor thesis discusses the life and work of Arthur Ransome with the focus on the *Swallows and Amazons* book and series, and its Lake District setting. The theoretical part opens with a detailed biographical introduction based on a selection of secondary sources.

The author mentions Ransome's controversial political preferences and his turn to writing children's fiction following his journalist career. The theoretical section is compromised by poor paraphrasing, which follows the source texts too closely. In one case, on pp. 3-4, a whole paragraph has been reproduced virtually verbatim from the source text (Chambers) without this being acknowledged. The situation is similar with other parts of the biographical chapter using Hyland (pp. 1,4) and Ransome (p. 1-2). It is a pity that Mr Zmykalo did not use Ransome's autobiography (esp. Chapter II: Lake Country Holidays) to say more about Ransome's childhood experiences of the area and, as a follow-up, if (and how) they were translated into his children's fiction. The discussion of the book includes an adequate plot summary and characteristics of the book, such as setting, structure, language, and main themes. I regret to see significant parts drawing on popular online material (Cornerstones *Swallows and Amazons* teaching resource booklet) instead of the author's own reading. There are again verbatim passages outsourced from the secondary source without appropriate marking. On the other hand, the characters are described and understood very well. Mr Zmykalo makes a relevant point about the parental absence in the story, and it would be interesting to hear how this compares to other adventure stories of the day. The subchapters 2.11 and 2.12 are derived almost entirely from secondary sources instead of the author's own interpretation. It would have been useful to include a brief description of the Lake District and its relevant areas, firstly to demonstrate why it captured the imagination of so many artists and secondly, what the setting of the book and series looks like. On the whole, I think that Mr Zmykalo ought to have relied more on his own reading and interpretation, which are good, instead of secondary sources.

The thesis is written in very good English, nevertheless, substantial parts of it are not the author's own language. There are some morphological and syntactic inaccuracies (e.g. articles, preposition or the use of comma in relative clauses). At times, informal language is used (e.g. contracted verb forms, using "you" instead of an impersonal subject or passive voice). As mentioned above, the main weakness is improper paraphrasing and at times flawed referencing (incl. occasional mixing of in-text citations and footnotes). Otherwise, it provides a well-structured overview of the author and his most acclaimed piece of work.

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

Navrhovaná známka: velmi dobře

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. How does Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* series fit generically in the production of „the second Golden Age“ of English children's literature?
2. In your view, the language used in the series is "quite complex and demanding". Is also there any play with language and if so, can you give any examples? What is the dynamic between the narrative voice and the characters in terms of language?
3. How would you describe the Lake District and which of its features or qualities do you consider the most appealing to artists? How is the area portrayed in the book? Are any of the locations of *Swallows and Amazons* traceable, e.g. thanks to authorial elucidations?

Podpis oponentky bakalářské práce:.....

Datum: 16.1. 2023