



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

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

Název práce: **The Philosophy of the Tiger in the Selected Prose of William Saroyan**

Autor práce: **Matyáš Hůlka**

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 attempts to characterise William Saroyan's philosophy of life, described as 'philosophy of the tiger' through a review of a selection of his prose works, combining close readings and a study of key intertexts. It begins with a review of Saroyan's life and writing style, then moves on to consider particular texts. The first novel discussed, *Tracy's Tiger* is the key to understanding the role of the tiger as a metaphor for an open and inclusive approach to life, providing a conceptual framework for the discussion of the following texts. Consecutive parts show how the same themes and attitudes recur in multiple works by Saroyan, with or without an explicit reference to tigers.

The author argues that Saroyan's prose is written to be read primarily through the emotions rather than through the intellect, and the figure of the tiger serves as a metaphor for the emotional world of the characters which can never be fully explained but is nevertheless precious.

Overall assessment

The scope of this thesis is quite extensive for a B.A. level, encompassing two novels and a book of stories. Mr. Hůlka manifests a high level of originality and literary analysis in dealing with texts which have been neglected in the research on Saroyan, which tends to focus on his theatre and some of the short stories. Saroyan's seemingly naive style can prove quite elusive and presents a challenge when trying to pinpoint the meaning of his narratives as well as his allusions. Despite the difficulty in locating relevant secondary sources the thesis makes good use of the research available to support and expand on the author's own arguments. The structure of the thesis is appropriate for the topic and the level of English and academic writing is high although not perfect.

The thesis provides good grounds for the author's belief that William Saroyan's work deserves being read and interpreted. He was able to show the complexity underlying the air of innocence and nostalgia in the narratives, and the literary sophistication of Saroyan's texts. These features make the comparison with William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* particularly pertinent and calls for further study if the author will choose to pursue this project further.

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

15. 8. 2022
Datum

Podpis