



POSUDEK VEDOUCÍHO BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **Jane Austen's characters Elizabeth Bennet and Emma Woodhouse and their social position**

Autorka práce: **Linda Hrdá**

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

Oponent bakalářské práce: **doc. PhDr. Ladislav Nagy, Ph.D.**

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: 2

Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy: 2

Demonstrates a good understanding of the literary work(s) discussed: 2

Engages with the subject critically and analytically: 2

Uses relevant scholarship meaningfully: 3

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

The research presented in the thesis is uneven in quality. At times, it brings relevant information to bear on the analysis of the novel, for example, when explaining the economic situation in *Pride and Prejudice*. On other points the discussion remains on the surface of the novel, mainly when it comes to issues of class, and the very detailed gradation of social hierarchy in British society. Throughout, the author engaged with relevant scholarship on the topic.

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: 2

Employs appropriate register and academic style: 2

Uses correct and relevant terminology: 2

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

Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary): 1

Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes: 2

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

Writing this thesis in English has been a real challenge for the author. The author made a big effort to improve her skills and comply with academic norms which should be appreciated. At the same time, the overall level of English writing is below that expected for a third year B.A. student.



Overall Review and Assessment

(short description of the thesis and its findings, what has been achieved, and areas for improvement)

I would like to begin by commending the author for her hard work and dedication to this thesis. Throughout the work process she has shown an ability to work independently and great diligence despite multiple difficulties. She has also been responsive to suggestions and made great progress in her writing and interpretive skills, of which she can be proud. This thesis studies the social situation of the heroines in two of Jane Austen's novels – *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*. The thesis explores the life and literary influences on Jane Austen, the position of women during the Regency Era and then goes on to discuss each of the novels in a separate chapter. The final chapter draws some similarities between the two heroines, alongside the multiple differences between them. The comparison itself is quite interesting as it contrasts the social concerns of the earlier novel with the personal drama of the later one. The thesis shows that the feminist and social inequality concerns which are foregrounded in *Pride and Prejudice* recede to the background in *Emma* which is focused on the personal growth of the protagonist.

In line with the stated differences between the novels, the chapter dealing with each novel is structured differently. The first, dealing with *Emma* examines her social relationships and how they are transformed as the novel progresses. The second, on *Pride and Prejudice*, also mentions the personal growth of the heroine which is evident in the novel, but devotes more attention to the social and economic circumstances of the Bennet family. As such, the structure which treats the later novel before the earlier one makes sense, as it allows the author to concentrate on the most relevant topics for each novel.

As already mentioned, the thesis does not fully grasp the realities of British social hierarchies in the relevant period, for example, by claiming that Emma and Mr. Knightley are social equals whereas the novel makes it clear that he is of a higher class and dwells on the great sacrifice he is making by leaving his estate and consenting to leave in the Woodhouse's more modest house. This issue is better treated in the interpretation of *Pride and Prejudice* where the author discusses the contrast between social position and personal growth.

Overall, despite its limitations this thesis clearly presents meaningful research and fulfils the requirements for being accepted as a B.A. thesis in our department.

Questions for Defence

(please provide two questions for the student to answer during their defence)

1. You clearly show how Emma's interpersonal relationships develop during the novel. Do you think she also learns something about society more generally?
2. In the discussion of *Pride and Prejudice* you mention the irony of Elizabeth Bennet ending up with a traditional resolution of marrying a rich man. Could you remark on how realistic the endings of both novels are?

Práci doporučuji k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **dobře**

29. 5. 2023

Datum

Podpis



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* Numerical assessments are provided as a guideline for recommending the final grade following an indicative scale:

over 32 "výborně"

28 - 32 "velmi dobře"

24-28 "dobře"

below 24 points the work is in danger of failing.

The final grade will be determined by the committee following the thesis defence.