



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **The changes of literary fantastical elements visible in *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien**

Autorka práce: **Anna Müllnerová**

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

Oponent bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Tomáš Jajtner, Ph.D. et Th.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:	3
Engages with the subject critically and analytically:	3
Uses relevant scholarship meaningfully:	3

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

Anna's thesis tackles an important topic in relation to the rise of fantasy as a genre: by looking at the various sources of Tolkien's *Hobbit*, she creates a large canvas of references and topics which have become the crucial elements of modern fantasy. Anna stresses the importance of Germanic mythology, Icelandic sagas, OE heroic poetry as well as the Arthurian chivalric tradition of the High Middle Ages. Subsequently, all of these elements are read into *The Hobbit* and with *The Hobbit* which allows us to reassess Tolkien's mastery in handling these diverse 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:	2
Adheres to academic thesis guidelines, format and MLA style guide:	2
Written in correct and fluent English (both grammar and vocabulary):	2
Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes:	2

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

On the whole, the thesis is written in decent English with only a few instances of Czenglish or other non-standard or sub-standard issues (e.g., using the word "Contents" instead of "Table of Contents"). At times, Anna fails to adhere to standard academic practice, such as italicizing the titles of books.



Overall Review and Assessment

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

The thesis makes a satisfactory impression, proving Anna's solid knowledge of the topics discussed. I appreciate her focus on the concept of "worldbuilding" and "heroism": both of these elements have undoubtedly contributed to the popularity of the genre. Indeed, fantasy may be seen as a popular form of interpreting these old stories and mythological narratives. However, I believe we should still keep the distinction between old mythological stories of various kinds and the new world of the *fantasy* genre, i.e., use the word *fantasy* exclusively for a genre that gradually developed over the course of 19th and especially 20th century. (Moreover, there is clearly a substantial difference between Tolkien and some popular, mass-produced works from the 1970s onwards.)

Questions for Defence

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

Do you understand *The Hobbit* as a story *sui generis*, or as a compiled interpretation of the sources you refer to?

What has been the impact of Tolkien on some of the popular, mass-produced works of contemporary *fantasy*?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **výborně**

15.8.2023

Datum

Podpis