



POSUDEK OPONENTA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a literatura**

Název práce: **The portrayal of class in Charles Dickens' works**

Autorka práce: **Eliška Raisová**

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:	2
Sets clear goals or questions for research:	2
Demonstrates conceptual clarity and accuracy:	1
Demonstrates a good understanding of the literary work(s) discussed:	1
Engages with the subject critically and analytically:	1
Uses relevant scholarship meaningfully:	1

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

The first part of the thesis dealing with the social and political issues in Victorian Britain (pp. 8-17) makes the impression of a compiled patchwork of various authors (including important scholars like E. Hobsbawm), where the authorial input is hard to identify. Sometimes it is even unclear how to evaluate a situation where after a longer paragraph Eliška simply refers to a source. Is it a quotation or paraphrase? Why is it not in inverted commas? Sadly, similar problems occur elsewhere, too. In terms of analysis, the thesis tends to simply apply a particular idea onto the text.

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:	
Employs appropriate register and academic style:	2
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):	1
Carefully edited with few typos or mistakes:	2

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

Eliška's English style is comprehensible, however, with multiple instances of Czenglish, clumsy long sentences and other issues. All of those could have been eliminated with more thorough editing. The problem with quoting secondary literature makes it exceptionally hard to detect what is really hers and what is based on someone else's work. This mixed and rather confusing style of writing seems at odds with the basic goal of a B.A. thesis, i.e., to prove the student's ability to truly analyse a given literary work.



Overall Review and Assessment

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

Overall, the thesis makes a highly questionable impression. Since the authorial input is so hidden behind a confusing mass of references, one can hardly judge the extent to which Eliška can really engage with the given texts. The "portrayal of class" in Dickens's works is a complex issue: the protagonists are not mere victims of a given social structure, but agents in a complex web of relations. The story always somehow *liberates* the ideological limits, in which the characters are made to exist (cf. some of Marx's own studies in literature). This is the core element of a good literary analysis: i.e., to map the landscape defining the 'world-building' of a particular work. In Eliška's thesis, however, such an approach is hard to find.

Apart from that, the analyses of Marx and other philosophers of class tend to be shallow and superficial. Even amongst Marxist philosophers (especially in the Anglo-Saxon world), there are many scholars who have spent a substantial amount of time studying *English novels* within the Marxist (or neo-Marxist) context, such as T. Eagleton. Sadly, those find virtually no echo in Eliška's text. Is she aware of them at all?

Given the many language issues and the mentioned poor analyses, the outcome lacks much to be desired.

Questions for Defence

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

Why does Pip want to be a gentleman? How does he move beyond the perspective of his own background determined by his *class*?

Práci **doporučuji** k obhajobě.

Navrhovaná klasifikace: **dobře**

15.8.2023

Datum

Podpis