

Supervisor's Report on B.A. thesis by

Ms. Karolína Kašparová

THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF LITERATURE: CRITICISM OF A (NEO-) CONSERVATIVE COMMUNITY

In her thesis, Ms. Karolína Kašparová evaluates "how the political aspect of literature functions [in] Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Ira Levin's *The Stepford Wives*" (5). The neo-conservative if not out and out fascist tendencies of these communities the candidate illuminates with the aid of such scholars as Roberto Esposito, Hannah Arendt and Slavoj Žižek; she also mobilizes Theodor Adorno for more abstract questions of the politics of literature.

The thesis contains sixty-five pages across five parts, which include 1. Theoretical Part (which also included an introduction and seven other units), 2. *The Stepford Wives* – Novel Analysis, 3. *The Handmaid's Tale* – Novel Analysis, 4. In Popular Culture and 5. Conclusion. There is also a five page Bibliography. All in all, the thesis is well structured and organized and clear in the exposition of its presentation strategy as the titles of the individual units of composition suggest. Stylistically the thesis is well written although there is the odd error such as a missing article or for example where "bend" should be "bent" (32), "same women" should be "some women" (41), "stripped off her freedom" should be "stripped of her freedom" (42), "complex that" should be "complex than" (58), "letter issue" should be "latter issue" and "build" should read "built" (58). Also there is a repetition of "on what" on page 43 should not be there; otherwise the piece is well written.

All in all, the study is also both well conceived and well argued and contains work to be commended. An interesting point for this reader surfaces when the candidate argues that "A screen adaptation does not have to be completely faithful to become a good film or a TV series, yet it is important not to avoid the complex questions which are asked in the novel, even though their form might be changed. Such avoidance, paradoxically, often happens when the political aspect of the novel is stressed too much and simplified to please the viewer" (49). In this light, what specific conditions or examples would the candidate give to further clarify this point?

In another aspect, the candidate makes the claim that a culture of incessant control and monitorization makes women robots in her target works; is this something that the candidate believes is threatening our contemporaneity as a more general and single thing, and if so could she furnish a few more examples of this phenomenon in her textual objects of focus in her thesis?

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of 1 (výborně) for this thesis work.

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