The submitted thesis addresses the complex problem of temporality and its perception in three major novels by Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway, To the Lighthouse* and *The Waves*. These modernist texts are notorious for their innovative, experimental narrative technique making use of the registration of subjective mental processes (known as the stream of consciousness technique) to differentiate between conventionally accepted pictures of reality and individual, unique experience of all constituent parts of life, time included. The question of time in modernist art (verbal as well as visual) has been a frequent topic of critical attention and in the introductory chapter the student provides basic information concerning the changes in understanding temporality around the turn of the 20th century, mentioning the seminal role of Henri Bergson, William James or Marcel Proust. Rather confusing, however, is her mention of Paul Ricoeur in this context; Ricoeur is of course a later thinker and his study of time and narrative provides one of the clues for approaching modernist literature, but he is presented, it seems at least, as one who influenced modernist conceptions of time. I’m sure it was not meant this way but unfortunately his position has been left unexplained.

The student tries to analyse motifs of time, rich as they are, in each novel in detail. It is clear that the three texts differ in their emphasis on how time is perceived by their characters and what role it plays. The student attempts to find and say as much as possible yet I cannot help seeing some limits of her treatment. Her presentation seems to be somewhat disorganized, especially in the chapter on Mrs Dalloway where the argument does not develop organically but rather skips from one aspect to another. This is most obvious in her account of the motif of a commercial plane, which is discussed twice in two slightly different contexts and unnecessarily separates the meanings brought in by this motif. The most complex novel is undoubtedly *The Waves*, consisting of inner monologues of six characters, and I feel that it deserves a very thorough attention (an entire thesis could be based on this single text). As it is, the presentation focuses mostly on the unifying principle of this multifaceted consciousness, the absent character of Percival, the nexus to which all the six friends relate in their own way. But besides this, each character also represents a different consciousness of time as it forms their lives and an analysis of the role time (as something in which we grow and change) plays in each of them would be much appreciated. The subchapter on identity elucidates some of these aspects but the novel, I’m afraid, offers more.

In spite of the above reservations I believe that the thesis shows the student’s ability to deal with such a complex issue and that it can be recommended for defence. It is due to its limitations that I suggest the grade to be “very good” (*velmi dobře*).