

Opponent's Report on B.A. thesis by

Klára Staňková, "The Problematics of Race in Selected Writings of Toni Morrison"

In her B.A. thesis, Ms. Klára Staňková gives a critical account of the race problematic in a select band of writings authored by the U.S. novelist, Toni Morrison (1931–2020), to wit, *Paradise* (1997) *A Mercy* (2008), and *God Help the Child* (2015). The thesis document contains fifty-six pages across an Introduction with four subunits of composition therein, and individual chapters on "Paradise", "A Mercy", and "God Help the Child". A Conclusion and a Bibliography caps the prose text.

All in all, the thesis is well-proportioned, structured, and organized, and clear in its presentation. Stylistically, the thesis is well written. However, there are a few typos such as for example: "most influencing" (12) should be "most influential" (12), "many of white Americans" (14) should be "many white Americans"; on rare occasions there are also issues with articles such as with "strategy of nonviolent campagin" (14) should read "strategy of a nonviolent campaign" (14) or "has tragic outcome" (42) reads rather better as "has a tragic outcome" (42). The strong suit of the thesis lies in the tightness and neatness of its argumentative structure and lucidly presented thesis claims.

However, there is a more serious problem with the thesis, and it is, namely, that there are cases where the appropriate reference system is inadequately used. For example, on p. 14 of the thesis Dewey M. Clayton's article is incorrectly engaged; Tessa Roynton's article on p. 35 is also mistakenly cited. Moreover, there are other instances in the text, which Turnitin teaches me to know, where she references the text, but only cites/quotes from it partially. This is simply a skill that has yet to be mastered by the candidate. Therefore, I have to recommend to the committee that the thesis be failed/withdrawn and resubmitted for the next exam date if possible where she can have the time to comb through the text, and to make the necessary citational adjustments in order to produce a freshly corrected and revised version.

Whether these foregoing issues have been inadvertent, accidental, or display ignorance of academic conventions, they have happened. Unfortunately, in this case, the thesis was of a good quality, except for these concerning problems and propensities. I wish the candidate luck in revising and resubmitting the thesis for a future exam date.



doc. Erik S. Roraback, D.Phil. (Oxon.)
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