

Supervisor's Report on B.A. thesis by

Alžběta Rückl, "Forms of Alienation and Loss in Hemingway's Texts"

Ms. Alžběta Rückl aims in her B.A. thesis research to illuminate the problematic of the various sorts of alienation and loss that can be found in three texts by the U.S. author Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961), "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber", and *The Sun Also Rises*. She uses the writings of Søren Kierkegaard with special reference to the distinction Kierkegaard makes between the aesthetic and the ethical realms and modes of existence in his two-volume major work, *Either/Or*. This is the basic fulcrum around which her thesis turns.

The thesis contains 54 pp. (viii + 46 pp.) across the following units of composition: prefatory matter, "1 Introduction, three chapters that cover the respectively aboveindicated narrative texts, as well as a Conclusion and a Bibliography". As for the prose style, all in all, it reads well when the candidate is working at the peak of her ability and care with regard to her proofreading, and yet there are a number of typos and other small errors, which a more vigilant proofreading would surely have rectified. Here are a few examples: "the Hemingway's protagonists" (3) should delete the "the"; "the Hemingway's style" (4) should delete the "the"; "repeatedly" (6) should be "repeated"; "commenting Helen" (7) should read "commenting on Helen"; "to have recognise" (10) should read "to have to recognise"; "the Kierkegaard says" (10) should be "Kierkegaard says"; "one the most" (12) should be "one of the most"; "Kierkegaard write that" (24) should be "Kierkegaard writes that"; "been mentioned" (35) should be "be mentioned"; "sever" (35) should be "severe"; "expect" (38) should be "except"; "one more" (41) should be "once more".

Concerning the content, the candidate has made a cogent case for the relevance of combining Hemingway's prose and Kierkegaard's philosophical take on the aesthetical and ethical modes of being to throw valuable light on the textual space of her chosen Hemingway texts. Time and again Alžběta makes perspicacious points about the selection procedures or lack thereof mobilized by the major characters who populate her three chosen Hemingway works. I ask the following questions: 1) Is there any sense in which any of the Hemingway works you have chosen subvert or complicate Kierkegaard's tidy distinction between the aesthetic and ethical forms of existence and of life? 2) And if so, how? And if not, why not? Also, in another field of attention, 3) How would the candidate render more complex her understanding of the role that gender plays in the construction of identity and so of life narratives of some leading edge characters in her target prose works by Hemingway?

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend the pre thesis defense mark of a 2 (velmi dobře) for the thesis work. The final outcome will be determined by the performance at the defense.



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