

Posudek na bakalářskou práci Veroniky Vítkové „Migrant Experience in Contemporary Black British Fiction“

This BA thesis aims to cover the experience of black immigrants to Britain. There immediately and naturally arises the very problematic issue of categorization and labels. What actually constitutes a black immigrant? I am convinced that Veronika Vítková has selected her texts and authors appropriately - even though she includes writers whose background and even topic may include Africans and South Asians. Her main focus (i.e. history, background etc.) is the Caribbean area, but as even that is highly diverse, it is clearly difficult to maintain abstract “purity” in selection.

Overall, the thesis displays a very high degree of orientation in the historical and cultural situation of immigration. Both the primary texts and the secondary sources (theoretical approaches to the diaspora) are selected well. With its range of questions and approaches, the thesis has proved to be very inspiring and it indeed shows promise for future work on the MA level. Moreover, it must be stated that the thesis and locating its topic is a result of independent interest and further individual study and research (as there are no seminars in Caribbean literature or postcolonial theory available on the BA level).


The literary texts are not used merely as sociological tools exemplifying and mapping the reactions of immigrants but the thesis provides a comprehensive and thorough interpretation of individual literary texts from relevant perspective while also retaining their socio-historical interest.

I have therefore only a few questions and comments to make:

1. The term fiction in the English title is not quite precise. Why not literature as in the Czech version? It would certainly be more appropriate as we deal with poetry too. (This is probably a relic of the early versions of the thesis. -?)
2. Is Sam Selvon's creation of the community of blacks in *The Lonely Londoners* a false illusion which Caryl Phillips then puts right?
3. The issue of the “acquired language of the colonizers” (I would prefer the term colonizers to Veronika Vítková's use of “colonialists”) is a great issue in post-colonial literature. Many of the texts under discussion use a range of varieties of English. Sometimes the relevance of language is mentioned in the thesis, either as incomprehensible to the English (*The Lonely Londoners*), or unpleasant to hear (*Cambridge*), or an example of the broken identity of slaves (“The Song of the Creole Gang Women”). It would be of interest to learn what other sources of potential may be perceived in this “alternative” or counter/discourse.
4. After studying Turner's picture, how does the author of the thesis actually “read” the picture that was the inspiration for Dabydeen's poem (i.e. “The Slave Ship: Slaves Throwing Overboard the Dead and the Dying”)? Why is Dabydeen's poem called *Turner*? Who is Turner in the poem?

To conclude, I have found the thesis to be informative, logically structured, sound in its argumentation and proper in expression and formulation. Therefore, I fully recommend the thesis for defence and suggest the preliminary mark of excellent (**v ý b o r n ě**).

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