Opponent's report on B.A. thesis by

ms. Kateřina Hůlková

TONI MORRISON: MAGICAL REALISM SERVING TO OUTLINE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Ms. Hůlková sets out in her thesis to portray the facets of the genre of magical realism that throw valuable light on two key novels by Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*.

The thesis contains fifty pp. across five chapters and a works cited section. As for the prose style, it reads very cleanly although there are some rare errors such as “Morisson” on page 14 should be “Morrison” and also the same page contains two passages in a smaller font than I believe the candidate wished them to be unless that was for a special reason of emphasis.

This reader appreciated the use of Caroline M. Woidat's essay on “Talking Back to Schoolteacher: Morrison’s Confrontation with Hawthorne in Beloved” to illuminate some points of concern. The candidate effectively reveals both the strong suits and the weaknesses of Woidat’s arguments.

As far as the concept of property goes that cuts into the thesis investigations, I wonder if the candidate would have a response to the idea that even her magical realist inflected interpretations are an index of a kind of property and so by extension of authority, force and use of power and as such should be itself subject to a critique? This would open up questions of a more methodological or theoretical nature, which may not be the candidate’s supervening concern I recognize and yet I ask all the same. For example, what other generic attributions would the candidate ascribe to her two chosen novel texts other than magic realism?

When one reads that “The fragmentary quality of *Beloved* acts against the reader’s potential ability to imagine the whole picture until the very end of the story; and even then the puzzle is still full of holes” (32) I wonder what is the nature of knowledge for Morrison in this novel text? Is it imagination, invention on the part of the reader or something else? Also, when we read that, “The adoption of magical realism may be a result of Morrison’s search for a literary device which would be as free as possible from racially tainted language and forms of expression” (47) I ask the candidate if she could restate her views on this matter with a textual support or two so that the remark contains more empirical substance?

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

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12 June 2011