



FACULTY OF ARTS
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Opponent's Review

Galina Kiryushina, "Something Gone Wrong with the Silence: The Motif of Voice in Samuel Beckett's *Embers*, *Eh Joe* and *That Time*" BA thesis

Choice of Topic:

The proposed topic of this BA thesis is certainly both an ambitious and fruitful one. The thesis works through a detailed appraisal of the motif of voice in an intellectually discerning and contextually sensitive manner, and with a confidence that marks this out as an exceptional piece of work for a BA level student.

Thesis statement / aims and objectives:

The project is constructed around a clearly articulated set of objectives, at the core of which is the goal of analyzing the ways in which Beckett works with voice and visual / aural binaries in three works intended for different media. The selection of a radio play, a television play and a theatre play facilitates a nuanced discussion of the effects of Beckett's genre decisions and exploration of forms of internal monologue.

Structure and development:

The work as a whole is logically structured and developed. Each of the main chapters features a detailed and perceptive description of each play and how it works with the intended medium. Ms Kiryushina is attentive to the ways in which Beckett deploys sensory deprivation and disjunction to advance his theatre of fraught subjectivity. Her discussion of voice rhythms and the poetic qualities of speech are juxtaposed with an ongoing exploration of the relationship between the visual and aural in each play. Of particular note in this regard is the manner in which Ms Kiryushina keeps her subject in focus; while there are numerous critical approaches to these issues in Beckett's oeuvre, she draws on them strategically and avoids straying from her core project.

Research:

The research undertaken for this project is one of its most commendable features showing critical initiative and judgement.

Use of sources:

There are no major formal or stylistic issues concerning the use of sources. Single quotation marks as opposed to double are used throughout, but these are consistent. Some slight errors appear in the footnotes. Materials have been carefully cited throughout; the only small criticism that might be made here is of the reliance on discursive footnotes. At times this material might have been better incorporated in the main text.

Stylistics and language:

Ms Kiryushina's writing style is fluent, consistent and accomplished. Her command of written English is exceptional.



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Format:

A great deal of care has been taken with format of the project.

I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade the work “excellent” 1.

1.9.2011

Clare Wallace, PhD