

Supervisor's Report

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

Galina Kiryushina's thesis presents an accomplished analysis of the motif of voice in selected plays by Samuel Beckett. Her work is marked by a profound understanding of some of the most complex works by Beckett, be they dramatic or prosaic. A chief strength lies in the ability to provide a lucid commentary on one of the most intricate and at the same time alluring motifs in Beckett while at the same time paying meticulous attention to its different contexts within the individual works. Moreover, the candidate makes a most judicious use of numerous secondary sources, the principal points of which are frequently developed in an original fashion.

The choice of a radio play, a television play, and a stage play as the focal points of discussion is strategic given the limits involved in writing a short essay that a BA thesis is; nonetheless, it also allows the candidate to examine the author's work with different media, and discuss why the individual works are fundamentally media-specific. My only objection to the latter aspect of the thesis would perhaps consist in pointing out the lack of specific evidence that is provided for the candidate's recurrent claim that aspects of the experience of working in radio or television are used by Beckett in his later work for the stage: while this possibly may have been the case, the causality cannot be merely assumed.

Having said that, the intellectual accomplishment, lucidity and coherence of argument, and the imagination involved in discussing the theatrical aspects of Beckett's work in production exceed by far the requirements for a bachelor's thesis. It is to be hoped that the candidate continues her research by looking into Beckett's late drama and fiction, in which voices in the characters' heads are placed even more firmly centre stage.

I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade it as "excellent".

Prague, 26 August 2011

doc. Ondřej Pilný, PhD