Ms. Hanžlová’s thesis called *The Importance of a Room of Her Own: Female Spacial Awareness in Selected American Women’s Fiction* deals, as it openly admits, with a few primary sources coming from different historical (and by definition also cultural) periods, and discusses them primarily through a feminist lense. While this is doubtlessly a legitimate approach, I wonder whether — and if so, to what degree — it might not be overlooking e.g. ethnicity or region as just as important phenomena, once we consider female spacial awareness as such (see my very last question in this review). In other words, would an intersectional approach change Ms. Hanžlová’s findings substantially, or not at all?

Be it as it may, Ms. Hanžlová’s choice of secondary literature fully corresponds with her intention. She relies mainly on recent and contemporary feminist studies, and the range of sources she has covered is by itself an admirable achievement. The only comment one can make is whether some traditional authrорities on women and houses (such as Freud) should not be mentioned, and maybe even worked with, but this is a mere speculation going beyond the scope of this thesis.

The argument itself is always focused, clearly structured and leading to the points Ms. Hanžlová wants to make. Just in two particular instances, I found that slightly troubling, as I believe that a totally different interpretation of a given passage should not be ruled out. Those reservations of mine refer to p. 32, since the quote saying „they suddenly commit suicide,… unheard of contradictions“ might as well stand for lack of logic and reason and thus represent a feminine discourse, and p. 77, since *Fate* and *True Advanture* magazines, as well as other objects in the room, would certainly not stand for anything feminist or genuinely native American. Also, on p. 57, the last sentence of the second paragraph fails, I think, to make sense: why „but“? And finally, since on p. 27 Ms. Hanžlová mentions *Jane Eyre*, does she believe that this is the very same Jane mentioned by the protagonist towards the end of the short story?

As to Ms. Hanžlová’s conclusion, it is quite strong and persuasive, and certainly based on the actual analysis. The only issue that remains problematic, in my opinion, concerns her ideas for further possible research. As she claims, the concept of intimacy a woman feels towards her house appears to be more interesting and useful for ethnic rather than white writers nowadays, which is further supported by her preliminary choice of other works one could deal with in this connection (*Alice Walker’s The Color Purple* and *Toni Morrison’s Beloved*). But why is that the case, and is it truly impossible to find relevant examples of white writers’ works?

Depending on the review written by the supervisor and Ms. Hanžlová’s performance during the oral defense, I am suggesting the following grade: either excellent, or very good (either výborně, or velmi dobře).

Dr. Hana Ulmanová, M.A.

Prague, May 9, 2013