

Supervisor's Report on M.A. Thesis by

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## THE PORTRAYAL OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC STEREOTYPES IN AMERICAN ANIMATED CARTOONS

Ms. Vejvodová sets out in her diploma thesis to delineate the use of ethnic and racial stereotypes in US animated cartoons.

The thesis contains 80 pp. of text and six pages of illustrations at the end of the study; as for the prose style, it reads very cleanly and displays good compositional skill; there are very rarely typos such as at the end of the thesis where we read on page 75, paragraph 2, "troublemsome" which of course should be "troublesome".

This reader appreciated the rigorous use of self-reflexive close reading with historical contextualization of the target animated cartoons; the theoretical and historical research in this regard displays work to be commended and makes the cartoons interesting.

As far as racial and ethnic stereotypes go that constitute the focus for the present work, would the candidate respond to the notion that even her literary-critical hermeneutic interpretations index a stereotyping property and propensity (a quality of objects and a mode of perception) and by extension of authority, force and use of power, and as such should be itself subject to a critique as part and parcel of a stereotyping mentality and attitude? Your analysis might be considered a part of this cultural dynamic, ideological world, or cultural system, so to say; here in order to address this issue, the candidate's use of Paul Gilroy's work, *Against Race: Imagining the Political Culture Beyond the Color Line* would be one possible point of departure.

Furthermore, I would like to know the candidate's position, in a nutshell, on the deceitfulness and factitiousness of language as a mediator and how this challenges our operations and processes of interpretation with respect to cartoon culture? That is, can language possess untapped emancipatory potentials or brutally repressive aspects your analysis did not yet broach explicitly, even if they were suggested, with regard to the operation of the stereotype in delineating race and ethnicity?

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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