

Ms. Čížková's B.A. thesis – review written by the opponent

Ms. Čížková's B.A. thesis, *Gender Differences in Selected Works of Ernest Hemingway*, is an interesting attempt to analyze the chosen problem in a non-traditional light. While the idea itself is certainly a valid interpretative possibility, Ms. Čížková should have recognized the fact that it is not the possibility that the majority of the authoritative sources recognize. Consequently, she should have given us solid proofs, supporting her main argument. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

First, Ms. Čížková should not always take the words of fiction at face value: e.g. on p. 9, while mentioning *A Farewell to Arms*, she should have considered lying and/or (self) irony as well. Second, she tends to reach abrupt, far-fetched conclusions: e.g. concerning manipulation, which is described both on p. 18 and 23. It may be my personal problem, but I still find it hard to believe that the heroine tried to manipulate Frederic; could Ms. Čížková explain her position on that at least during the exam in front of the committee?

As to the language of the submitted thesis, Ms. Čížková's English is adequate, but what seems to be lacking is the persuasive connections in between the individual sentences, or even thoughts. Ms. Čížková seems to be misusing both „However“ and „Nevertheless“ (see e.g. p. 8, p. 16, p.23); consequently, her logic is rather flat, built on either/or. Also, her argument is sometimes rather speculative (see for example the last sentence in the first paragraph on p. 16 concerning lack of maternal love), or forgets to deal with quite crucial words/points (see for example p. 21, „hysterical and aggressive“). Occasionally, there is also a problem with terminology/precise terms; see p. 27, „from the religious aspect“, or p. 28, „stream of consciousness“ – is it indeed there?

Finally, I have to say that I do not understand the last sentence on p. 45 – be it the actual meaning, or the relevance to the thesis. The conclusion itself, then, tends to be repetitive and not that analytical. Thus, depending on the review written by the supervisor and Ms. Čížková's performance during the oral defense, I am suggesting the following grade: very good/velmi dobře.

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