

ZDENĚK POLÍVKA'S B.A. THESIS – REVIEW WRITTEN BY THE OPPONENT

Religion of War: the Disruption of Telos in Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian* is a very ambitious thesis, attempting to interpret the given novel in quite an original manner. In his analysis, Mr. Polívka relies on detailed knowledge of McCarthy's work, as well as on the help of truly contemporary secondary sources, often theoretically very demanding ones. His central argument is certainly valid, and e. g. his comment on the difference between Deleuze and McCarthy regarding morality is truly penetrating. I even suspect that he has read much more on McCarthy than he is willing to admit, and his bibliography most probably does not contain works consulted, as for example on p. 21 he refers to „frequent critical analogies made between *Blood Meridian* and *Moby Dick*“. Simply put, I was astonished by the insight he managed to reach in a B.A. thesis.

This being the case, I would wish to ask two questions only: 1/ On p. 18, Mr. Polívka mentions „dark sense of humor“ – could he be more specific and literary here and provide us with a definition, as well as a developed description of McCarthy's humor? 2/ On p. 37 and 39, Mr. Polívka uses the notion of language game; what sort of a linguistic concept is he relying on, and would it be possible to argue that any language game is, in so far as it wants to grasp reality, rather deceptive?

The language of the thesis is very adequate and almost flawless, with just a few minor mistakes as to articles. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said once we consider abstract written in Czech: Mr. Polívka could definitely have paid more attention at least to the issue of capital letters (see *Americká národní identita*, *Deleuzovský*, *severní Amerika*) and precise punctuation.

In conclusion, it is my firm belief that this B.A. thesis could easily become a basis for an M.A., that is diploma, thesis. Similarly to the B.A. thesis written by Aleš Kuna about a year ago, and thus I wonder whether Mr. Polívka has any knowledge of that thesis, and if so, whether he finds it both persuasive and relevant to his own approach.

In my opinion, Mr. Polívka deserves the grade „výborně“/“excellent“. The final result, though, depends on the review written by the supervisor and on Mr. Polívka's performance during the oral defense.

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