



Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Posudek vedoucí na diplomovou práci Petry Burianové

“Questioning Gender Through the Test of History: the Fiction of Jeanette Winterson and Ali Smith”

The submitted MA dissertation studies the two writers from the title with regard to two huge aspects: their destabilization of traditional concepts of time (as related to history) and of gender (and sex). It establishes from the outset a rigorous theoretical framework ranging from discourse to the performativity of gender. Each of these is very logically and comprehensively laid out and worked through in relation to enlightening readings of selected novels by Winterson and Smith. What emerges is the idea of the authors' subversive potential, challenging social and cultural norms.

Therefore, if the submitted dissertation may not be quite innovative in the selection of writers and their texts, by putting them side by side it becomes noteworthy for its depth and range of critical reading. Organization of text, structure of argumentation, and despite its treating of difficult concepts, overall easy readability is praiseworthy and demands attention.

The dissertation is inspiring, however for the defence I have just one question: On page 36, Petra Burianova touches on some differences (in style, views and agency) between Smith and Winterson on the one hand, and Angela Carter on the other. She revisits this area in her treatment of gender later on in the dissertation. I would like, perhaps to have some more of such comparison, especially as it later becomes apparent that there are indeed great similarities between Carter and the early Winterson.

Nuanced readings of primary texts, sophisticated application of theory, and a dedicated commitment to the exploration of a difficult area - all these ought to be sufficient grounds to substantiate my suggestion for the grade of excellent (**výborně**).

V Praze dne 17.5.2016

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