

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
KATEDRA ANGLICKÉHO JAZYKA A LITERATURY PedF UK

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Název práce: Savagery in *The Inheritors* and the *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Vedoucí práce: Bernadette Higgins MA

Rok odevzdání: 2016

Rozsah práce: 41 stran bez příloh

Posudek: Vedoucího práce

Autor posudku: Bernadette Higgins MA

Posuzovaná oblast	Zvažovaná kritéria	Body (0-5)¹	
1.	Celková charakteristika	Splnění zásad zpracování práce, adekvátnost titulu práce, naplnění stanoveného cíle, logická struktura práce, vyváženost a propojenost teoretické a praktické části	4
2.	Teoretická část	Stanovení a splnění cílů, prezentace různých teoretických přístupů k řešení problému, jejich kritické posouzení a zvolení relevantní teoretické základny pro realizaci praktické části	4
3.	Praktická část	Vhodnost a aplikace zvolené metodologie, jasnost formulace hypotéz, relevantní a srozumitelná argumentace a interpretace získaných výsledků, jasnost formulace závěrů práce	3
4.	Jazyková úroveň	Gramatická správnost a komplexnost, slovní zásoba, koheze a koherence textu, interpunkce a stylistické aspekty, celková úroveň jazykového projevu	4
5.	Struktura a forma	Přehlednost struktury, členění, řazení a proporčnost kapitol a oddílů, konzistentnost úpravy	3

práce, odpovídající rozsah
práce, adekvátnost a provedení
příloh

6.	Práce s odbornou literaturou	Kvalita, množství a relevance odborných zdrojů, kritický přístup ke zdrojům, odpovídající úroveň citační praxe	3
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Celkové zhodnocení práce (včetně kritických výhrad):

The thesis explores a central aspect of Golding's first two novels, *Lord of the Flies* and *The Inheritors*, that of savagery, with a well expressed and at times very novel approach. The theoretical section looks at historical meanings of the word savagery and the related words barbarism and civilization, and also considers the concept of 'the noble savage', which became associated with Jean-Jacques Rousseau during the Enlightenment period. As the author points out, "savagery is an ambiguous term" (p. 34) and she attempts to describe precisely what is meant by the word, both "savagery according to the general understanding of the word, or savagery as Golding sees it". The famous 19th century children's novel by Ballantyne, *The Coral Island*, is referred to with reference to *Lord of the Flies*, the author pointing out that it serves, through its difference, e.g. the fact that evil is an external rather than internal quality, to accentuate the "tragic and painful" qualities of Golding's story. Above all, in the theoretical part, the author points out that Golding's 'retelling' of the 'children on a desert island' fantasy, is informed by his profoundly bleak views on human nature, views formed by his war experience, which destroyed his 'airy-fairy' ideas about the general benignity of humanity and 'taught him different' (p. 11). Golding's view that "man produces evil as a bee produces honey" (p. 35) pervades both novels and affects his depiction of both 'savages' and civilized'

The author then introduces her own novel tool of enquiry in examining the manifestations of savagery and civilization in the two novels by applying 'The Alignment System' of categorisation created by the author of the role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons to the two novels. This complicates a simple civilization vs savagery dichotomy by offering instead two axes: law vs chaos and good vs evil (p. 13), along which characters (or in the case of *The Inheritors*, group) can be placed, and is an unexpected but highly interesting and novel approach. The disappointment in the thesis is that the author did not (possibly lacking the confidence to do so) consistently apply this method of categorisation. Instead, the more nuanced interpretations of characters, particularly in *Lord of the Flies*, e.g. the shared tendencies of 'lawful good' (Ralph) and 'lawful evil' Jack, are often offered side by side with more simple descriptions based on the 'savagery vs civilization dichotomy. E.g. she shows that as both Jack and Ralph can be considered to be 'lawful' and 'laws, rules and established practices of society can indeed assist the progress of evil it is doubtful at best that, at least according to Golding, civilization means goodness" (p.15) in the very next section, looking at 'Civilizing instinct', she starts by saying that "civilization is represented mainly by Ralph and Piggy" (p.15). Other moments of contradiction occur, e.g. when she approvingly quotes Carey's description of the two books, "Both are about an encounter between civilization and savagery, and both suggest new ways of interpreting those terms. " (p.28), yet herself says a short while later, "*The Inheritors* is not about the clash of civilization and savagery, but rather about the existence of these two instincts within man recounted by beings lacking both of those instincts" (p. 34). Which is it?

From the start of the thesis, the author seems to be at pains to attempt to clearly define the various concepts with which she is dealing, but her focus at times wobbles and her innovative introduction of the 'alignment system' is abandoned, rather, in favour of the more traditional 'savagery/civilization' axis, which clouds the analysis. However, the author makes a very serious and thoughtful attempt to analyse the way in which Golding makes us question our belief in the goodness of civilization and her attempt to do this using a new system of analysis is to be praised.

Témata a náměty k diskusi při obhajobě:

Does the author think that the character of Simon is a freakish exception created only to act as a symbol of goodness or does Golding suggest in any way that his lack of cruelty can be emulated?

The author at one point says that Golding "repeatedly stresses that savagery is the source of evil and cruelty, it is according to him the natural state of human constitution" (p. 23). Is the destruction of innocence inevitable in both novels, or are they morality tales that can teach us more about human existence than that man produces evil as bees produce honey?

Práci tímto - doporučuji

Datum: 20.5.2016

Podpis:

