

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE
KATEDRA ANGLICKÉHO JAZYKA A LITERATURY PedF UK

Autor práce: Hedvika Šiprová

Název práce: Thomas Hardy's Critique of Christianity in Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure

Vedoucí práce: Bernadette Higgins MA

Rok odevzdání: 2016

Rozsah práce: 48 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	3
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	3
3.	Praktická část	Vhodnost a aplikace zvolené metodologie, jasnost formulace hypotéz, relevantní a srozumitelná argumentace a interpretace získaných výsledků, jasnost formulace závěrů práce	2
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 práce, odpovídající rozsah práce, adekvátnost a provedení	4

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 is an analysis of the important role religion plays in the last two novels written by Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*. One of its strengths is the amount of research undertaken into religion in the Victorian era – the author marshals a lot of information extremely skilfully and presents a good overview of various aspects of the Christian church and its great influence on 19th century society. The theoretical part is thorough, highly structured, and is evidently based on a wide-ranging amount of research, though at times the overview of religion seems to drift into irrelevance in terms of its possible relationship to the two novels, e.g. the sections on the work of the Salvation Army, or church activities related to the colonies. Despite the very strong structuring of the thesis, there are a number of sections in the practical part that would have better fitted the theoretical part, in fact, two major themes which the author discusses in the practical part – women and marriage - are not really mentioned at all in the theoretical part (other than a reference to women's involvement in philanthropic activities). Citation was not always as good as it could be, e.g. the page reference (xv) missing in the reference to the Google book version of *Late Lyrics*. There are also a number of avoidable errors, such as the repeated use of 'morale' for moral/morality, which are most probably due to haste.

Haste would also seem to be the reason for the disappointing practical part, which does not share the sharp focus of the theoretical part. That the author's focus wavers from the topic of Christianity is acknowledged when she introduces her final chapter, *Other Critical Points*, by saying (p. 38) “Whereas the topics discussed in the previous subchapters of the practical part were somehow connected to broader social issues, these final critical points are strictly oriented at Christianity”. In this section she vaguely touches on a topic which would have been much more relevant to the thesis, i.e. the presence of pagan themes, than the various aspects of Victorian church organisation on which she dwells.

The conclusion is weak as, having discussed some interesting aspects of Christianity in the two novels, the author makes a number of unconnected and almost bizarre points, including criticising Hardy for writing about 'extreme situations' and even making a rather banal comparison of his approach with the observation or not of traffic rules, misrepresenting his aim as being to present a modified version of Christianity. This rather reductive approach to Hardy's vision shows a lack of sensitivity to his complex relationship with Christianity (both novels are poetically soaked in biblical allusion), his profoundly pessimistic world view, the extent to which he was influenced by classical literature and contemporary scientific and philosophical texts (e.g. Darwin). I believe that the practical part of the thesis shows signs of haste and that the conclusion does not reflect the potential of the author and it is a pity that it does not measure up to the measured and thorough work in the theoretical part.

Témata a náměty k diskusi při obhajobě:

How do Hardy's references to pagan themes in the two novels relate to his treatment of Christianity and to his vision in general?

How does Hardy's deeply pessimistic vision (remember poor Jude as a boy following his disappointment over the Greek books - “Somebody might have come along that way who would have asked him his trouble, and might have cheered him by saying that his notions were further advanced than those of his grammarian. **But nobody did come, because nobody does**”) and the aspects of naturalism evident in the novels fit into his ideas about Christianity?

Does the author of the thesis really think that “the endings of the two works imply that the only way to achieve happiness [is] to completely abandon all the Christian teachings including what they say regarding morale.”?(p. 43)

Práci tímto - doporučuji

Datum: 09. 9. 2016

Podpis: Bernadette Higgins