

POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

KATEDRA ANGLICKÉHO JAZYKA A LITERATURY PedF UK

Autor práce:	Veronika Vanišová.
Název práce:	Women and Social Class in Elizabeth Gaskell's Novels, <i>Mary Barton</i> and <i>North and South</i>
Vedoucí práce:	Bernadette Higgins, M.A.
Rok odevzdání:	2019
Rozsah práce:	58 stran
Posudek:	vedoucího práce
Autor posudku:	PhDr. Tereza Topolovská, Ph.D.

	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	3
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 práce, odpovídající rozsah práce, adekvátnost a provedení příloh	3
6.	Práce s odbornou literaturou	Kvalita, množství a relevance odborných zdrojů, kritický přístup ke zdrojům, odpovídající úroveň citační praxe	4

Celkové zhodnocení práce (včetně kritických výhrad):

This work is a very solid and thoughtful exploration of two of Elizabeth Gaskell's works that can be described as 'industrial' or 'Condition-of-England' novels: her first published novel, *Mary Barton* (1848), and *North and South* (1855). The author of the thesis focuses on two very interesting and important aspects of the novels, namely their treatment of women characters and also of class issues. These two topics constitute a very wide scope, and this over-ambition is something that hobbles the thesis to an extent, although the author does deal very well with a number of varied issues in both books.

In the theoretical part she discusses Victorian society in general, its social mores and class system. She also outlines the social and economic conditions of the era, noting many of the

¹Bodové hodnocení na škále 1-5 (5 bodů maximum), 0 bodů z jedné či více posuzovaných oblastí automaticky znamená, že práce není doporučena k obhajobě.

consequences of the rapid industrialisation that took place in the north of England, particularly in Manchester, in the early part of the 19th century, as well as touching on the trade unions and Chartist political movement that emerged in response to the dire social conditions of the working class. She further points to expectations regarding women's behaviour and the classification of women into 'respectable' (influenced by the ideal of the so-called 'angel in the house'), and unrespectable, the so-called 'fallen woman', including a nuanced appreciation of the impact of class on these expectations. She then describes the genre of the 'industrial novel' and concludes the theoretical part with some relevant biographical information about Elizabeth Gaskell relating to her knowledge and first-hand experience of the lives of the working class and her membership of the Unitarian church, which espoused liberal views to social issues, e.g. 'a more progressive stance on women's rights' (p. 20). The theoretical part shows the admirable breadth of the author's research and she marshals a large amount of source material very well, though this is often infelicitously expressed, particularly in repeated mentions of one source, Mitchell, most noticeably in the early part (c. pp 11 – 16).

In the practical part, the author looks at the two novels in turn, before comparing them. One criticism is that the practical part is at times rather analysis of the novels in general rather than a focus on the stated topics of the thesis, i.e. women and class. An example of this is, for example, section 5.2.2.2. The Moral Shortcomings of Mr Carson, which has only a tangential connection to the stated thesis theme. Though the author is clearly a very sensitive reader of Gaskell's work and makes many acute observations of both novels, there is a sense of lack of confidence in carrying out more explicit analysis, preferring rather to present a mosaic of opinion through secondary sources. But on the whole, this is a good, well-expressed and very thorough exploration of the novels of an extremely important novelist of the early Victorian period and it clearly displays the author's deep interest in and feeling for works as well as an extensive amount of serious research.

Témata a náměty k diskusi při obhajobě

- 1) The author mentions, when highlighting Gaskell's presentation of the working class as intelligent, the criticism of religion by Nicholas Higgins “He asks Mr Hale why a poor worker should occupy himself with trying to earn his place in the “eternal life” (N&S 272)” (p. 42) Could she say more about this example and Gaskell's presentation of religion in general?
- 2) The author mentions Gaskell's often complex or subversive presentation of gender, e.g. the working-class fathers nurturing the sick or their motherless children, “Stoneman refers to this also as “a ‘feminisation’ of working-class men” (p. 45), or Margaret Hale's assumption of masculine power in North and South. Could the author say a little more about this quality in Gaskell's work?

Práci tímto

k obhajobě.²

Datum: 9 January 2019

Podpis:

² Výsledná známka zahrnuje hodnocení posudku vedoucího práce, hodnocení posudku oponenta a hodnocení výkonu studenta v průběhu obhajoby.