

Mr. Kyllar's B.A. thesis – review written by the opponent

Mr. Kyllar's B. A. thesis is an extremely nuanced and in-depth analysis of the given novels. The focus is crystal-clear, the structure of the whole work solid and the main argument both fluent and persuasive. What has to be applauded is the fact that Mr. Kyllar is working with truly contemporary secondary sources on such complex problems as ownership, power, laws and language, and yet never simplifies his line of thought. Thus, his interpretation of the primary texts is both justified and innovative, and throws a new light on those two titles nowadays safely belonging to the classics. The theoretical insight he demonstrates and also its application clearly surpass the standards required at our institution.

Having said that, my belief is that the opponent's role is to point out possible weaker spots, and this is why I would like Mr. Kyllar to consider the following questions. 1/ Where exactly does he see the link between social structures and the childhood trauma in *The House of Mirth* (as the transition was too sudden, at least for me)? 2/ While I truly appreciate his take on *The Awakening*, in my opinion, he could have mentioned the intersectional approach as well; in other words, would the issues of class and race change his understanding of the novel, and to what degree are they actually present there – or should we rather talk about their absence? 3/ And finally, while I fully grasp the meaning beyond his selection of these two novels in particular, how would he justify the choice of his primary material in general (why not e.g. Henry James's prose, as he is referenced on p. 19)?

And a truly marginal remark to conclude with (no need to address that once we examine the thesis). While Mr. Kyllar's academic English is admirable, it is regrettable that he has overlooked several mistakes in the Czech abstract, such as „týkajícími se“, „kdo se bouřil, proč se bouřil“, „osobnosti, jakými“ or „hrdinky“ and „širší“ (I am using the corrected versions here). But I also wonder whether he has actually produced abstracts, or rather forewords – and this may be briefly commented on, I think.

This being the case, I am suggesting the following grade: excellent/výborně. The final result, though, depends on Mr. Kyllar's performance during the oral defense, as well as on the review written by the supervisor.

Prague, May 29, 2010

Dr. Hana Ulmanová