



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Review

Pavel Bakič, "Depiction of Media in British Dystopic Fiction," BA thesis

Choice of Topic:

The topic area selected for the thesis demonstrates good potential for future development although it was perhaps somewhat ambitious and extensive for this paper. The theoretical aspects of this paper are excellent but somewhat overleap the limitations of the texts chosen.

Thesis statement / aims and objectives:

The purpose of the thesis—to explore the depiction of Media in Dystopian Fiction is achieved by comparative and structured discussion of various dystopian texts- Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* being the fulcrum .Mr. Bakič has carefully chosen to discuss antecedents such as Huxley's *Brave New World* and Wells's *The Sleeper Awakes* and to then examine continuations in recent dystopian history such as Moore and Lloyd's *V for Vendetta* —as they relate to this central text. This theoretical framework allows a solid base from which to comment on his chosen material .Additionally, the thesis is prosecuted by a strong contextual survey of the influences of Orwell's text and its axiomatic influence on the use and abuse of media in the genre of dystopian literature.

Structure and development:

The structure of the work as laid out at the outset seems methodical and logical although there are points where Mr Bakič may feel he has explained something however he in fact comes close to post hoc fallacy by virtue of not adequately explaining a theoretical premise and then basing analysis upon that .Coherence is sometimes sacrificed in favour of theoretical pyrotechnics and ,on occasion, crumbles (part 3).The treatment of the key texts is indeed interesting but tends to lose sight of its comparative aim and sometimes smacks of a survey essay in rather muscular disguise. While the theory is perfectly within the student's abilities, some key influences and voices (i.e. Foucault) are mysteriously understated or ignored completely. The thesis is strongest when engaged with Huxley and Orwell's novels; the final chapter certainly makes valid points, but is hamstrung by an urgency to conclude the paper and consequently is less well developed and feels uneven.

Research:

Mr Bakič's research shows initiative in assembling materials and demonstrates skill in searching for, selecting, and evaluating sources.

Use of sources:

There are few formal or stylistic issues concerning the use of sources. Materials have been carefully cited throughout.

Stylistics and language:

Expression is often somewhat turgid and over-engineered. While the register is appropriate, the reader is often alienated by a fibrous and convoluted style. As a whole the work still requires a stylistic clean-up (especially in part 3 where some bizarre linguistic posturing or perhaps 'method acting' appears) and a more thorough proofreading; this lack of attention to detail detracts from the overall impression of the work which could otherwise have been outstanding.