

## **Gabriela Petrušová's B. A. thesis – review written by the opponent**

Ms. Petrušová's B. A. thesis is devoted to the analysis of Flannery O'Connor's selected works and attempts to draw a connection between humorous elements and the theological dimension to be found there. While the choice of Henri Bergson as a theoretical background for the former is fully justified in the subsequent analysis, it might be interesting to see whether Flannery O'Connor was actually familiar with his theory (as there are several biographies and countless articles devoted to her life); as to the latter, Ms. Petrušová was able to demonstrate a very solid knowledge of the Bible. Having said that, her analytical skills are much better than her writing skills: there are redundant and/or vague passages and unclear connections, as well as missing articles and inadequate expressions (which simply means that she should work on her English).

Since the role of the opponent is to point out the real or potential weak spots, I would like Ms. Petrušová to respond to the following remarks. On p. 20, she discusses Joy/Hulga using Malabranche without truly understanding his message, and on p. 32 she mentions Pilate's last words – are these indeed her own observations? Similarly, on p. 21, she makes a comparison to Ivan Karamazov – again, it is her own idea, and why has she chosen exactly this literary hero (did Flannery O'Connor know this particular novel, for example)? Next, Ms. Petrušová uses a few key terms without defining them, and I would want her to do that at least during the oral defense: namely, the terms „theological“ and „ethical“ on p. 16, and also the term „tragic“ on p. 28. And finally, I believe that the quote she chose for the beginning of her thesis (p. 6) is way too broad and not very reliable, while the quote she chose for her last sentence (p. 45) is, in my opinion, rather lofty. In addition, where exactly does she see the difference in between the headings for chapter 2 and sub-chapter 2.2?

In conclusion, Ms. Petrušová's B. A. thesis is a sincere effort with numerous interesting points raised, but suffers from lack of formal skills – these should have been certainly more developed even at this (i. e. B. A.) stage.

Depending on the report written by the supervisor and Ms. Petrušová's performance during the oral defense, I am suggesting the following grade: velmi dobře (very good) or dobře (good).

Dr. Hana Ulmanová, M.A.

Prague, Aug. 26, 2012