



FACULTY OF ARTS
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Review

Zuzana Nováčková, "The Development of Mimetic Desire towards Latent Conflict in the Work of Katherine Mansfield," BA thesis

Choice of Topic:

The proposed topic of this BA thesis is certainly both an ambitious and fruitful one. The thesis works through a set of complex theoretical issues in relation to this topic in an intellectually discerning and contextually sensitive manner, and with a confidence that marks this out as noteworthy piece of work for a BA level student.

Thesis statement / aims and objectives:

The project is constructed around a clearly articulated set of objectives, at the core of which is the goal of analyzing the ways in which Rene Girard's theoretical work on mimetic desire can be applied to Katherine Mansfield's short stories.

Structure and development:

The first chapter offers a succinct overview of the project's objectives and a lucid theoretical framework that concerns the nature of mimesis as it is theorised by Girard. The main chapters follow a logical path and the detailed and perceptive close reading of the stories chosen is commendable. It is clear in chapters 2 to 4 that Ms Nováčková has a nuanced sense of her critical project and a mature and engaged sense of Mansfield's work. The terms "self-authenticity" and "ontological fullness of being" are somewhat problematic but this is not seriously detrimental to the analysis as a whole for a thesis at a BA level.

Research:

Research throughout is deployed with skill and judgement. Nováčková's theoretical reading shows initiative and is both well chosen and imaginatively applied to the short stories she discusses.

Use of sources:

There are no major formal or stylistic issues concerning the use of sources. Materials have been carefully cited throughout.

Stylistics and language:

Ms Nováčková's writing style is fluent, consistent and accomplished. There are a few minor grammatical errors but these are very rare.

Format:

A great deal of care has been taken with format of the project.

I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade the work "excellent" / 1 depending on the result of the defence.

27.8.2011

Clare Wallace, PhD