

Ms. Hejzlarová's B.A. thesis – review written by the opponent

Ms. Hejzlarová's B.A. thesis, devoted to the analysis of the conflict of country and city in Flannery O'Connor's short stories, is an extremely nuanced study of such a complex issue. Taking into consideration both Southern and Catholic dimensions of O'Connor's short stories, Ms. Hejzlarová establishes decent connections not only between the individual points, but also between the actual chapters and subchapters. Thus, she is able to lead her argument towards a persuasive conclusion.

In her work, Ms. Hejzlarová relies on an extensive list of secondary sources: all of them are to the point and the majority of them is recent to contemporary, which has to be applauded. Having said that, what I missed as to Ms. Hejzlarová's primary texts was a solid justification of her choices. True, her selection makes sense, but by including precisely those titles, she necessarily excluded some others, and I just wonder whether that was intentional or not. In other words, would it not be worth the effort and at least mention that, preferably in the introduction or in the concluding passages? And would that somehow change her main line of thought – which otherwise seems to be, and I have to repeat that, flawless?

There are some minor imperfections, though. A few occasional overlooks („The Good Country People“ on p. 2, as opposed to „Good Country People“ on p. 3, or „industrious development“ on p. 4, as opposed to „industrial development“ on p. 5), slightly confusing terminology (what is e.g. the difference between „cosmopolitan“ and „metropolitan“ – see pp. 27, 28, 39), and a vague, essay-like concluding sentence on p. 51 (what does Ms. Hejzlarová exactly mean by mirroring here?). Regarding these, I would want to hear Ms. Hejzlarová's comments.

Finally, I would like to point out a few errors in Ms. Hejzlarová's Czech resumé. It would certainly be advisable to unify the terms „jih/Jih“, it is plainly wrong to use the capital letter in „Americký jih“, instead of „pod jménem“ the Czech expression is „ve jménu“, etc. Which is to say that while Ms. Hejzlarová's English is nearly perfect, she should have paid more attention to the Czech academic style, as well as purely to the organic nature of the language itself.

Depending on the review written by the supervisor and Ms. Hejzlarová's performance during the oral defense, at this point, I am suggesting the following grade: výborně/excellent.

Dr. Hana Ulmanová

Prague, Jan 23, 2013