

## **Lucie Cupalová – Master’s Thesis**

### **The Slash Factor: Characteristics and Varieties of Slash Fan Fiction**

#### **Abstract**

The aim of the thesis is to discuss specific characteristics of slash fan fiction, both as a subgenre of fan fiction and as a literary and social phenomenon. These characteristics are summarised as the “slash factor” of “slash texts”.

The beginning of the theoretical part focuses on the history and development of (slash) fan fiction, its various definitions and its role as a specific genre in literature. It summarises the basic premises and principles of fan fiction and explains them on slash fan fiction in particular. Sedgwick’s homosocial – homosexual continuum in society is discussed, as well as its understanding and application on same-sex interactions, and several reasons for the reading and writing of slash fan fiction and its appeal are suggested.

The main part of the thesis analyses actual slash fan fiction in three different fandoms: Harry Potter, Sherlock (Holmes), and Nightrunners. Each of them offers a different set of characters and slash tropes. Similarities and differences are sought in the stories written in different fandoms. Moreover, the Nightrunner series is analysed as an example of professionally published “slash text” which already features a gay couple as the main characters.

The second half of the main part is a questionnaire analysis conducted among English-speaking readers and writers of slash fan fiction. It confirmed the motives for reading and writing slash fan fiction, the tendencies to slash particular type of characters, and the different appeals of slash fan fiction that were suggested and shown in the previous parts. Moreover, it showed that the community of slash fans and their creations are as diverse as they are consistent.