

ALENA ZELENKOVÁ'S B.A. THESIS – REVIEW WRITTEN BY THE OPPONENT

Judith Butler's Concept of Performative Gender and the Rebellion Against Normativity: Sandra Cisneros's Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories is a very ambitious B.A. thesis, working with highly demanding theoretical sources. The only issue I am uncertain about is Ms. Zelenková's understanding of the terms primary and secondary sources, as she does not seem to be using them either traditionally or consistently in the abstract and in the actual text. Could she please explain to us where would Foucault, Derrida, or Anzaldúa's Borderlands, for the purposes of this thesis, belong?

Having said that, the central argument is, I believe, excellent, as well as the applicability of methods chosen. While the thesis is truly interdisciplinary, the intersectional approach clearly makes sense, as Ms. Zelenková is able to elaborate on rather complex issues in a non-reductive manner. Thus, she was able to draw a persuasive conclusion, and certainly does not need to defend that.

As indicated above, there is not much I want to ask. What follows is four rather marginal comments/questions. 1/ Once we were discussing sources, Ms. Zelenková often mentions laughter (e. g. on p. 64) – would she find Cixous useful in this connection, or is her focus elsewhere? 2/ Talking about logic, is it enough to say „on the other hand“ on p. 13, or is the issue a bit more complicated than that? And finally, pertaining interpretation: 3/ Is Ms. Zelenková absolutely sure about the border on p. 44 and p. 45, i.e. which side of the border are we on? And isn't the car mentioned on p. 55 and p. 56 clearly an American icon, and how would that problematize its position in the story?

The language of the thesis is very adequate and almost flawless, with just a few minor mistakes as to articles. Even the abstract written in Czech is both fluent and scholarly at the same time, which is, unfortunately, not always the case at our department.

In my opinion, Ms. Zelenková deserves the grade „výborně“/“excellent“. The final result, though, depends on the review written by the supervisor and on Ms. Zelenková's performance during the oral defense.

Prague, Aug. 31, 2014

Dr. Hana Ulmanová, M.A.