



FACULTY OF ARTS
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Review

Tereza Bambušková, "The Depiction of Inner Consciousness in the Short Stories by 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 an analysis, using a Freudian conceptual framework, of the ways in which Mansfield represents the consciousness of her characters through focalisation, symbol, epiphany and narratorial intervention.

Structure and development:

The first chapter offers a succinct overview of the project's objectives and a lucid theoretical framework that situates Mansfield within Modernism, and proposes the application of Freudian terminology to the rendering of consciousness in her work. 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 5 that Ms Bambušková has a nuanced sense of her critical project and a mature and engaged sense of Mansfield's work. Her attention to indirect discourse, focalisation, symbol, epiphany and the tensions between individual and group is keen and well elaborated. Ms Bambušková has made a concerted effort throughout to combine the conceptual framework derived primarily from the work of Freud with close reading of Mansfield's work. She succeeds in producing a cogent and critically informed argument that is admirably sensitive to stylistic detail.

Research:

Research throughout is deployed with skill and judgement. Ms Bambušková'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 Bambušková's writing style is fluent, consistent and accomplished. There are a few minor typographical errors (for instance Fludenik is misspelled) but these are very rare.



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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.

8.6.2014

doc Clare Wallace, PhD