



Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

Posudek vedoucí na bakalářskou práci Patrika Krejčího

“ ‘A Ball of String Full of Knots’: Narrative Strategies in Jeanette Winterson’s Early Novels and Their Later Development”

The submitted BA thesis works within the brackets of narratology, literary theory, and cultural studies. As such it is very interesting, readable, informative and useful in its application of a range of theoretical concepts from narrative theory, concepts taken over from New Historicism, gender studies etc. I find the thesis especially valuable in its focus on the function of embedded tales/interpolated stories.

Narratology in the strict sense is not the main focus (and indeed structuralist terminology of narratology does not appear very often in the text) but an interpretation of the ways narration itself becomes a part of the meaning of the tales is perhaps desirable. The thesis ends up being close to a need for a discussion of the concepts of the sujet and fabula (?). How would the author relate his thesis to these concepts?

It seems that in Winterson’s novels the act of narration is a part of its formal structure and thus requires an attention to the context of enunciation. Narrative theory in its structuralist form refuses to address questions of politics, history or gender. Susan Lanser introduced contextual material to narrative theory (“Towards a Feminist Narratology”). Is the thesis also principally in accord with these notions (or, in dialogue between the claims of narratology and the claims of gender)?

The image of the snowball from the preliminary remarks works nicely but what happened to the idea from the title (a ball of string full of knots)?

The choice of texts – which fall into clearly defined categories – is, I believe, justified. Structurally, the work is very well organized and clear. Yet, I do miss the obvious benefits of a table of contents. Language and style is in keeping with the standards (some, but very few, errors do appear).

The dissertation displays a keen sense for logical organization and development of an argument. Language and style is fluent and quite appropriate.

I find the submitted thesis fully in keeping with the standards. I certainly **recommend it for defence** with the preliminary suggested grade of excellent (**výborně**).

V Praze dne 8.8.2015

.....
PhDr. Soňa Nováková, CSc. M.A.
ÚALK