

**POSUDEK BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**  
**KATEDRA ANGLICKÉHO JAZYKA A LITERATURY PedF UK**

**Autor práce: Michaela Dlouhá**

**Název práce: Marriage and the position of women in Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* and Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre***

**Vedoucí práce: Bernadette Higgins MA**

**Rok odevzdání: 2018**

**Rozsah práce: 58 stran, bez příloh**

**Posudek: Vedoucího práce**

**Autor posudku: Bernadette Higgins MA**

<b>Posuzovaná oblast</b>	<b>Zvažovaná kritéria</b>	<b>Body<sup>1</sup> (0-5)</b>	
1.	<b>Celková charakteristika</b>	Splnění zásad zpracování práce, adekvátnost titulu práce, naplnění stanoveného cíle, logická struktura práce, vyváženost a propojenost teoretické a praktické části	4
2.	<b>Teoretická část</b>	Stanovení a splnění cílů, prezentace různých teoretických přístupů k řešení problému, jejich kritické posouzení a zvolení relevantní teoretické základny pro realizaci praktické části	4
3.	<b>Praktická část</b>	Vhodnost a aplikace zvolené metodologie, jasnost formulace hypotéz, relevantní a srozumitelná argumentace a interpretace získaných výsledků, jasnost formulace závěrů práce	4
4.	<b>Jazyková úroveň</b>	Gramatická správnost a komplexnost, slovní zásoba, koheze a koherence textu, interpunkce a stylistické aspekty, celková úroveň jazykového projevu	4
5.	<b>Struktura a forma</b>	Přehlednost struktury, členění, řazení a proporčnost kapitol a oddílů, konzistentnost úpravy práce, odpovídající rozsah práce, adekvátnost a provedení příloh	5

<b>6.</b>	<b>Práce s odbornou literaturou</b>	Kvalita, množství a relevance odborných zdrojů, kritický přístup ke zdrojům, odpovídající úroveň citační praxe	<b>4</b>
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**Celkové zhodnocení práce (včetně kritických výhrad):**

This is an extremely assured and well-wrought analysis of two Bronte novels – *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) by Anne Bronte, and *Jane Eyre* (1847) by Charlotte Bronte – with a particular focus on the position of women and marriage. The theoretical part starts with a consideration of the general situation of women in the early Victorian period, paying welcome attention to the varied situations of women according to their class positions, though her main focus is ultimately on the situation of middle-class women such as Helen and Jane, the protagonists of the novels discussed. She then considers the importance of religion in shaping ideas about roles for women in society, particularly the division of women into binaries of good and bad, Virgin Mary and Eve, Angel in the House and Fallen Woman. She then focuses on an aspect which clearly interests her very much, that is the many restrictions on women's freedom, particularly relating to marriage, and the resistance to these shown in the two novels. She mentions pioneering writers who criticised the restrictions of marriage, namely the conservative radical Mary Astell, who wrote in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and Mary Wollstonecraft, radical and revolutionary of the Romantic period. She places the work of Anne and Charlotte Bronte in the tradition of such resistance and also sees in it an anticipation of 'the new woman' who appeared in the literature of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In her practical part, the author looks first at *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* and emphasises the didactic intent of the novel. She also points out examples of the two 'types' of women, The Angel in the House and 'the fallen woman', further divides characters in terms of their attitudes towards marriage (traditional or innovative) and also outlines the various courtships in the novel. The author clearly focuses on the work as a novel of ideas and as such does not explore the formal qualities of the novels, even saying of Anne Bronte's novel that, "Though her work may not have the greatest literary value, it conveys an important message" (p. 22), and this is the drawback of the thesis, persuasive though the discussion of ideas is. There is little sense of the complexity of the work as a novel in terms of its language, characterisation and, most importantly, structure. Whereas the analysis of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* focused on various examples of dysfunctional marriage and the resistance and final success of the main protagonist, Helen, in achieving an equal marriage, the analysis of *Jane Eyre* focuses on Jane's development throughout the novel and marriage in terms of "her fear of losing the current extent of independence" (p. 43). It contrasts substantially to Anne's novel in that "Charlotte's attitude is not as didactic as it is rebellious" (p. 51). The final comparison of the two novels makes thoughtful and original observations about the nature of the rebellion, or escape, that was necessary for the two protagonists and reflects the author's profound knowledge of the two novels.

On the whole, this thesis was focused, lively, well expressed and structured, and offered a sensitive and enthusiastic analysis of the topic of marriage and women's resistance to the restrictions they faced in the early Victorian period and as such is highly recommended for acceptance.

**Témata a náměty k diskusi při obhajobě:**

1. On p.32 the author writes, with regard to the various attitudes towards marriage, that "The intermediate generation, into which the main characters belong, appears on the border of these two attitudes. They are more complex and their individual attitudes differ considerably from one another." Could she expand on the complexity and the differences?
2. The critic Rachel Carnell wrote that recent criticism of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, has seen its split narrative less as a clumsy defect and more of "a conscious commentary on the intractable cultural rift between public and private spheres" - and the author herself briefly comments that "both male and female narrators are offered" (p. 51) - what can she say about the very striking narrative structure of the novel in relation to the gender themes she explores?

**Práci tímto - doporučuji**

**Datum: 23.5.2018**

**Podpis: Bernadette Higgins**