

## **B.A. thesis supervisor's review**

**Polina Polyakova: The analysis of gender representations reproduced in popular full-length animated films based on Russian folklore tales.**

**Prague 2023: FHS UK, p. 117.**

The proposed thesis by Polina Polyakova is dedicated to the subject of gender representations in the popular full-length animated films based on the traditional Russian folklore tales. At the beginning, I would like to highlight that the student herself suggested the chosen subject of her thesis and her research, and she had worked quite independently on both the study and text.

The thesis is devoted to the contemporary animated fairy tales that are a substantial part of the mainstream Russian cultural production and consumption. I do appreciate the author's willingness to study critically a topic that is politically and scientifically challenging, regarding, amongst others, the current geopolitical situation. The student positions herself in the methodological part of the thesis, where she reflects upon her own habitus and possible bias perspective that might overshadow her scientific reasoning. Nonetheless, the study itself consists of few weak elements that I would like to discuss below in more detail.

In the theoretical part of the thesis I would welcome broader discussion over the phenomenon of the studied fairy tales in Russia, along with the information, if the productions are the subject of domestic social sciences research and study, and of what kind if any. When it comes to analysis, there is too much description, instead of interpretation. What kind of gender representations are those incorporated in the animated popular tales? What meaning those representations convey for the potential viewers in the context of mentioned, at the beginning of the theoretical part, gender socialization through visual media productions?

The ending of the thesis is too short and too general. Although, there are some analytical conclusions put into the context of literature, it is not enough. Therefore, my question to be discussed during the thesis defense is: how the findings about gender representations in the animated modern Russian folktales relate to other studies and theories about the issue, and how they could be interpreted in the context of gender roles and gender order inside the current Russian society?

Last but not least, the thesis meets the standards of B.A. thesis written in English, although I am not sure, if there is a need to put all the tables with all the single characters in the appendix to the thesis.

Despite the several concerns raised above, I recommend the thesis for a defense and suggest the grade 2 (very good).

Prague, 1st September 2023

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