

Supervisor's report

on B.A. thesis by Jana Severová, "Young African American Women and their Environment: Contemporary African American Feminine Identities, Political Views and the Sense of Security"

In her (revised) B.A. thesis, Severová focuses on two novels by African American writers: *Night-crawling* by Leila Mottley and *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. The document includes seventy-two pages - an Introduction, two chapters discussing the above-mentioned books, a Conclusion, and a Bibliography.

Structure of the thesis, methodology, and achievements:

The work is well-structured, lucid and coherent. Stylistically, it is well-written and convincing. Severová's argumentation is apt, backed with quotations from relevant secondary sources. The thesis presented at the beginning of Severová's work is clear. She also offers a hypothesis that "without an environment where one feels safe and recognized, one's identity and a sense of authenticity - when tested - will suffer or even crumble down." She tests this hypothesis, successfully, exploring both of the literary works. Her conclusion sums up all the main ideas and findings from the individual chapters. The themes of the two chapters - i.e. feelings of security, political identity, and African American feminine identity - are explored in detail and analyzed properly. Severová uses the method of close-reading of fiction, primarily, while also engaging other texts related to historical context, various definitions of security, racism, code-switching, fetishization, formation of identity, and even statistics regarding recent elections in the US.

Shortcomings:

Jana Severová had to revise her B.A. thesis because several paraphrases and direct quotations in the original version were not cited correctly or they were not referenced at all. In this revised version, Severová deleted many secondary sources, quotations, and a whole chapter from the work. The quotations are in correct format at the moment. However, probably due to oversight (because I know that Severová put a lot of effort into correcting and improving the B.A. thesis), she did not reference the paraphrase mentioned below and several others. In this case, she wrote two sentences/paraphrases without a reference, and only in the third sentence that followed did she add a proper reference to Green's work.

Original (Senior thesis by Green), p. 16

The build-up within the plot thriving off the fact that Nella is receiving notes saying: "Leave Wagner Now" (97). Without knowing who these notes are coming from, Nella is left to speculate who is trying to force her to leave, and question whether or not it is Hazel.

Severová's thesis, p. 60

The plot's build-up is based on the fact that Nella is getting notes asking her to leave Wagner immediately. Without knowing who is sending these notes, Nella is left to hypothesize about who is attempting to force her to leave and whether or not it is Hazel.

I consider this an oversight (Severová did not try to hide that she used the material from the senior thesis by Raveén Green). Also, Severová's thesis was checked through Turnitin - by me and Severová - but it found a 60 percent similarity with Severová's original B.A. thesis that she submitted in June, which made it hard for us to check every single quotation and paraphrase.

I expect that these errata will be corrected by Severová and the errata document will be inserted in the SIS university system after the defence of the thesis.

Conclusion:

I recommend the thesis for defense and propose a preliminary grade of 2, "velmi dobře."

Blanka Maderová, PhD.

25th of August, 2023