

Lost in Time: The Concept of Temporality in Works of the US Lost Generation

Ms. Fedorenko's M.A. thesis – review written by the opponent

Ms. Fedorenko's M.A. thesis is an extremely interesting attempt to capture the concept of temporality in the selected novels of the US lost generation. In order to do that well, Ms. Fedorenko had to fully understand quite demanding philosophical texts first, and then apply the theoretical principles to some of the most representative – and therefore frequently debated – American literary works of the 1920s. In both those tasks, she succeeded way above my expectations. The following comments are thus not that critical in nature; they usually ask for clarification, or want Ms. Fedorenko to develop her thoughts and maybe even add something I thought of as relevant. For example: Is she acquainted with Justin Skirry's rather famous response to Sartre's article on *The Sound and the Fury*, and would that change her argument?

The analytical chapters are based on the method of close reading, and Ms. Fedorenko is certainly able to come up with detailed and in-depth interpretations. While I myself particularly enjoyed her discussions of Daisy and Benjy, I wonder why she did not include Jason. Is there a reason for that decision? And in the future, she might consider adequately titled sub-chapters, I imagine.

Two minor remarks. On p. 2, Ms. Fedorenko is referring to the testimony of a holocaust survivor. Would she be able to find a different source from the historical period she is actually dealing with? And on p. 9, she is describing the concept of temporality which is, in my opinion, very close to that of Emily Dickinson in some of her poems (see e.g. those on pain). How would she explain that similarity?

In the concluding chapter, Ms. Fedorenko believes that one of the possibilities for further research might be time in contemporary American literature. While this point is certainly valid, I would want her to be more specific: which writers (and even better, which works) does she have in mind?

This being the case, I am suggesting the following grade: „excellent/výborně“. The final result, though, will depend on the supervisor’s review, as well as Ms. Fedorenko’s performance during the oral defense.

Dr. Hana Ulmanová

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