

CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE
Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of International Studies

PROTOCOL ON BACHELOR THESIS ASSESSMENT
(Supervisor)

Name of the student: Markéta Sixtová

Title: *In what ways do men and women authors use ethnological components in their depictions of women in their writing from the 19th-century Czech National Revival?*

Supervisor: David Emler, Ph.D.

1. TOPIC AND OBJECTIVE (short information on the thesis, research objective):

The author of the considered bachelor thesis asks the research question – quite unexpectedly – already in the thesis title: “In what ways do men and women authors use ethnological components in their depictions of women in their writing from the 19th-century Czech National Revival?”. The author develops the idea a bit more in the introduction: „...exploring how both female [Němcová, Krásnohorská] and male [Mácha, Erben] authors utilized and incorporated ethnological elements into depictions of women will allow for a nuanced comprehension of social hierarchy, cultural norms, and values of the 19th-century Czech society.” To be even clearer, she adds: „Within the context of literature, ethnological components refer to the deliberate choice of including cultural elements into literary works to depict life, customs, and traditions to provide a deeper cultural context.”

The author also formulates a hypothesis on the differences between male and female writers: “While male authors usually depicted women in ways that reinforced traditional gender roles and nationalistic ideals, following the standard conventions of societal expectations, female authors frequently offered more candid and diverse portrayals that challenged or expanded upon these conventions.” (all quotes on page 3).

2. CONTENT (complexity, original approach, argument, structure, theoretical and methodological backing, work with sources, appropriateness of annexes, etc.):

The selected topic, research done in the secondary literature and overall academic approach correspond with the required standard of Bachelor thesis at the Institute of International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University. I miss a clear identification of the analyzed corpus of texts (specific publications and language versions of *Kytice*, *Máj*, *Babička* and *Svéhlavička*). The research design and methodology are relatively weak, but the state of the art is completely missing from the thesis. The space dedicated to the context of the proper analysis is very long – the author spends too much time explaining rudimentary information about the period and biographies of the analyzed writers – the actual analysis only starts in the middle of the text.

3. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE (quality of language, citation style, graphics, formal aspects, etc.):

The thesis is written in proficient language; the text is clear and understandable. Nevertheless, there are few misspellings, typos, or missing words in phrases (pages 3, 13...). Inconsistently, some Czech terms and quotes are translated into English; some are not.

4. STATEMENT ON THE ORIGINALITY OF THE THESIS

The URKUND anti-plagiarism software checked the thesis, showing no proof of plagiarism or any other wrongdoing related to an academic text.

5. SHORT COMMENTS BY THE REVIEWER (overall impression, strengths and weaknesses, originality of ideas, achievement of the research objective etc.):

The presented thesis treats an interesting, well selected topic, approached from a relevant angle, presented in a clear, understandable manner. I consider the research design and structure – dedicated a great deal to the context description – to be the weakest parts of the text. The analysis itself is predominantly based on the author’s own interpretations of the summarized plots, with no effort to search for some kind of “objectification” – such as quantifying the gender of the characters depicted in the analyzed corpus; the foundations of the interpretations in the existing academic literature on the subject also could be more substantial. More frequent consultations with the thesis supervisor would have solved most of the mentioned issues.

6. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING THE DEFENCE:

- 1) Would you consider the Czech 19th Century National Awakening a positive period in the history of women’s emancipation (compared to other eras)? Why?
- 2) Can you develop on other aspects of women’s emancipation in the 19th Century in Central Europe (besides literature and culture in general)?

7. (NON-)RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTED GRADE:

I recommend the bachelor thesis to the defense (with all the revealed critical points in mind). I suggest a “C” grade to the committee.

Signature: