

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Kateřina Fačkovcová

Title: Nature, Weather and Seasons in Thomas Hardy's Wessex Novels

Length: 29

Text Length: 26

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents an overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The choice of the discussed novels is well justified here, but there is no thesis statement beyond the rephrasing of the title.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The knowledge based on secondary sources is largely limited to the biographical and factual data. There is not much critical reading involved.
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Given the factual nature of the work, of which only a few pages actually deal with the theme indicated in the title, there is naturally little space for analysis and original ideas and comments.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

Since I never actually supervised the text submitted, I had no chance to influence its content. Had the student approached me at least once before having the work printed and bound, I would have told her e.g. the following:

- 1) The chapter on social context is largely irrelevant to the topic
- 2) The biographical chapter is also too long in proportion to the whole work
- 3) The thesis as a whole is mainly factual, consisting of data taken over from secondary sources – undoubtedly interesting, but hardly a material to be developed in an original critical way in a bachelor thesis.
- 4) Passages dealing with the novels contain a good deal of re-telling of the plot, *Tess* is dealt with only in two pages, of which only about two paragraphs deal with the topic.
- 5) Last but not least ... despite all the effort ... the thesis has only 26 pages text ... which contain hardly enough material for an essay.
- 6) One of the few worthy comments is the one on the sheep- bathing scene in *FftMC*... this is how to approach the theme ... Start with "there are many scenes similar to this one occurring in the novel.... " and explore them ...

As a whole, the thesis surely has some merits, but clearly not those, which are expected from a BA thesis according to the present grading criteria.

Supervisor: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 18. 8. 2014

Signature: 