

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Adéla Čuláková

Title: Using Politeness Theory to Read Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness*

Length: 39

Text Length: 30

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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	I have only one reservation about the references to general biographical and bibliographical facts about Le Guin on p. 2. It's not necessary to reference these; and moreover the <i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i> is an unsuitable reference work for a thesis.
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	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	All good with the exception of pp. 4-6 where the student provides a plot overview and description of the main characters. This was not necessary, as the relevant information came out in the student's excellent analyses later in the thesis.
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	Excellent, but the student might have used this section as an opportunity to connect the thesis to broader ideas of intercultural communication in the BA program, particular to the work of English-language teachers in the Czech Republic.
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and	Outstanding Very good Acceptable	

conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	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

I admired this thesis and recommend the grade of **1/výborně**. In many respects, it is a model work as it draws well on various theories that were present in our BA program and applies them to a detailed reading of a central work of anglophone popular culture. It reveals the dynamics of intercultural dynamics with subtlety and granular attention. In dealing with a work of science fiction, the student is alert to the broader social and cultural context, which has changed the way in which Le Guin's work since its original publication. The two close readings of passages in *The Left Hand of Darkness* are perceptive and help illuminate the theoretical implications.

I am left, then, with nothing to criticize. I do, however, have a question for the student. How would she connect her interpretation of Le Guin's the issues of intercultural communication that she has encountered throughout her BA studies. Would she be able to compare it to other cultural genres?

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 20 May 2021

Signature: