

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Petr Komínek

Title: Kipling and Orwell - Concurrences and Divergences

Length: 27

Text Length: 31

<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 and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding <b>Very good</b> 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).	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
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 <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding <b>Very good</b> Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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 <b>Very good</b> 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 <b>Very good</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Minor flaws in titles are constant throughout the texts. Short works are often written in Italics, and the References' titles are capitalized. Also, long quotations are often too short or improperly punctuated.

Final Comments & Questions

This is a good generalist vision of the differences between Kipling and Orwell and their attitudes toward imperialism. In short, the biographical information that drives the first half of the thesis should have been replaced with postcolonial theory. This is not to say that the biography was not helpful in placing both writers in context, but the incidents that comprise the authors' lives must be of secondary importance to the voice of postcolonialism in general that organizes and contextualize their existence. Again, in the second half of the thesis, the author fails to do a close reading of any one text, and I think a comprehensive reading of say *Kim* compared to *Burmese Days* may have been more enlightening than a whole anthology of minor works referenced in the latter part of the thesis. In some sense, this thesis feels a bit old fashion as it is driven by biography, and yet the author managed to address many of the most critical questions of empire and imperial abuse in this fashion. At the very end, the author merely mentions the sexual abuses recorded by both Kipling and Orwell, which could have used even further elaboration. Orwell especially sees the totalitarian state as a kind of S/M institution in which all those inside the system are sexually exploited and manipulated to maximum psychological effect. Still, the work is well-written and comprehensive. Withholding some reservations, I will recommend a mark of 1.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date:

Signature: