

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jan Vaščák

Title: Portrayal of Women in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*

Length: 35pp

Text Length: 33pp

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	With the exception of section 1.2, chapters 1 and 2 are largely irrelevant to the argument of the thesis. They, respectively, cover the general context of medieval society and culture, and then Chaucer's biography. This material is not persuasively related to the theme of the thesis. If the student had excluded this material it would have allowed more room for a consideration of issues that I raise in point 4.
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	I was surprised that the student did not engage with Chaucer's original, and did not even justify his use of translations into modern English.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	With such a subject as this, I was puzzled that the the student did not draw more widely on feminist criticism and theory. On p. 30, the student seems to be of the opinion that Alison should have been punished at the end of the Miller's Tale; this is unhelpful and anachronistic moralizing.
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	Outstanding Very good	

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

The thesis presented is, in my view, a decent example of an undergraduate research and composition, reflecting adequate analytical and language skills. Given the fact, that this is a bachelor thesis, it seems also quite acceptable, that the author used a modern English translation for his analysis of selected Chaucer's tales. As a supervisor, I appreciated the author's independence in the process of writing and respected his approach to the topic. Therefore I also feel co-responsible for some of the criticism raised in the opponent's report. Nevertheless, it has been agreed before, that proof-reading is not a supervisor's responsibility.
Suggested grade: very good (2)

Supervisor: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 20.5.2013

Signature:

