

**Z Á P A D O Č Ě S K Á   U N I V E R Z I T A   V   P L Z N I**  
**F a k u l t a   f i l o z o f i c k á**  
**K a t e d r a   a n g l i c k é h o   j a z y k a   a   l i t e r a t u r y**

**PROTOKOL O HODNOCENÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**  
(Posudek oponenta)

Práci předložil(a) student(ka): *Ms Julie Maresova*

Název práce: *Portrayals of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement and Hippie Culture in Selected Examples of Film and Literature*

Oponoval: Serge Boldyreff, Ph.D., LL.M

**1. CÍL PRÁCE :**

The author postulates her objective as analysis of artistic reflections of a) the US government 's military operations in Vietnam (1954 - 1975), b) resulting social movements in the USA and c) contemporaneous youth cultural movements [see p.8; §3&4 (8;3&4)]. She describes these historical events: the war, the movement, the culture, - in Part 1. She proceeds to Part 2 to tell synopses of and to talk about depiction of the events in selected movies and a novel. The author has accomplished the task she said she intended to do. It seems that the author's concluding remark that she merely "tried to" (48;3) achieve in her work is over-modest.

A thesis in Philology & Foreign Language studies has always an ulterior aim, which is to demonstrate ability to express ideas freely, comprehensively and competently. I see in front of me a successful demonstration of such abilities.

**2. OBSAHOVÉ ZPRACOVÁNÍ :**

The topic of the thesis requires extensive reading of historical, political and sociological texts and meticulous work with original audio-visual and literary materials. It is justified that the author opts for non-scholarly sources rather than academic publications: the thesis is about human perception of realities rather than about historical truth and socio-political rightfulness.

The structure of the thesis is clear. The content is well-balanced and reflects aims and purposes. It would have brought some excellence though if 'theory part' and 'practical part' were connected and cross referenced, as well as proper comparative analysis in discussion of selected films and the memoir was undertaken. I guess the author feels the same when she makes tentative attempts to introduce comparative elements in the text (37;2 - *Platoon* & *Full Metal Jacket*) & (40;2 - *Full Metal Jacket* & *The Proud Bastards*).

As it is, "the part of theory" hangs in the air and "the part of practice" lies on the ground. I read nothing about 'pacifists' and 'hippies' in *Platoon*, *The Green Berets*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *The Proud Bastards* sections. I don't see anything about "war" in the *Hair* chapter.

I take the word 'portrayal' in the title in its academic context as 'depiction, representing dramatically' but not as 'supplying synopses'. From that point of view, an analysis has more weights than a description, like it is done in Chapter 4.2 *Hair*: A thesis is not for uploading onto *www.imdb.com*; it is about demonstrating abilities to reason, to compare, to extract meanings.

I am puzzled by the author's decision to read and refer to the Czech translation of *The Proud Bastards* rather than Helms's original text.

**3. FORMÁLNÍ ÚPRAVA :**

The style and the language are appropriate. Division and sub-division of the text suits the narrative.

The author demonstrates a good command of English.

Citations (which were checked) are accurate and executed correctly. Reference list and the list of Bibliography are in standard forms. Occasionally, the author utilises a very confusing system of referring to original sources. When there is no visible quotation marks, it is unclear what is it about, especially if a reference relates to an opinion. Let's look at pages 12 - 13: each sentence is an 'opinion sentence', but the two sentences in the first paragraph haven't any reference marks, at the same time every other sentence on the pages is marked for authority. It is possibly acceptable to gloss someone's text but how much space, in this case, remains for creativity, cognition, own theoretical work?

**4. STRUČNÝ KOMENTÁŘ HODNOTITELE :**

The writing is of good quality, includes interesting information and does not have any notable deficiencies. The source materials consisting of various documents support the aim and objectives rather well. The author is familiar with the selected samples of films and the memoir. In general, it is a coherent and fluent entity that is easy to follow, but emphasis on the different areas could be improved. The findings are reported clearly but partly as individual entities without a comprehensive analysis and connections to the theoretical background. The entire thesis is easy to understand and linguistically rather faultless.

5. OTÁZKY A PŘIPOMÍNKY DOPORUČENÉ K BLIŽŠÍMU VYSVĚTLENÍ PŘI OBHAJOBĚ:

(a) I would like to hear some explanations on how the 'selected' movies and the book were picked for this project. Were any other Vietnam War movies / novels considered? If yes, why they were excluded from the selection?

(b) I would like to know what general observations about artistic interpretation of bloody battles of the Vietnam War you can make.

(c) I would like to hear a response to the comments: "The author utilises a very confusing system of references to original sources. When no quotation marks present, it is unclear what is actually attributed to the author and what is to someone else. It is especially so if a reference relates to an opinion. Let's look at pages 12 – 13. Each sentence is a sentence expressing an opinion. The two sentences in the first paragraph haven't reference marks. At the same time every other sentence here is marked for external authority. I assume the author is re-telling someone's story in her own words. It definitely lies outside of plagiarism but how original is the author's text? Or in other words, is any space left for the author's creativity, own cognition work and theorising?"

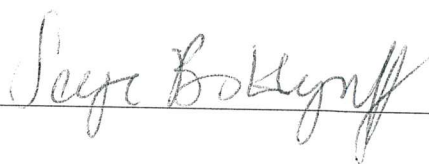
6. NAVRHOVANÁ ZNÁMKA:

Philology & Foreign Language Studies - Výborně

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni  
Fakulta filozofická  
katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Datum: 22/05/2016

Podpis:



SOUHLASÍ S ORIGINÁLEM