

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Lenka Šlechtová

Title: Humour in the *Cantenbury Tales*

Length: 38

Text Length: 38

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	The Introduction may serve as an acceptable lead-in into the topic. It does not, however, provide an overview of the thesis nor does it further specify its treatment of the issue of humour.
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 Very deficient	Given the author's circumstances and (in)experience, I appreciate her keen engagement with the difficult topic, her effort to introduce the issue of humour as well as the life and times of Chaucer and the film adaptations of this opus. Admittedly, this approach results in a less attention paid to the actual issue of the thesis. With respect to the rather popularizing than strictly academic character of the thesis, I also recommended to quote Chaucer in modern translation and thus the author should not be blamed for that. The absence of critical readings may be attributed to the above mentioned reasons as well.
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 believe that the author's voice is evident, whatever its "tone" may be. I appreciate e.g. her awareness of modern day analogies to various aspects of medieval life. A mere close reading and reporting on the selected tales should be considered a significant achievement, especially with the little critical practice the students have a chance to encounter in the distance learning form of study. The quotations are well chosen and illustrate the points discussed. The title, after all, does not promise to analyze humour explicitly.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See the points mentioned above.

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	Corresponding with the rest of the thesis.
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	Admittedly a further proofreading would much improve the thesis language-wise.
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	The mentioned academic inexperience is, unfortunately, also projected into the formal shape of the thesis, most markedly seen in the inconsistency of italicizing of titles in the text.
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	See points mentioned above

Final Comments & Questions

This thesis may not be the best example of student's academic paper but it represents a worthwhile beginner's opus. There are aspects of the work, which could be, and admittedly, should have been paid more attention, during the research and actual writing, and this must be obviously reflected in the overall evaluation, but it is still a bachelor thesis which meets the required criteria stated in vyhláška děkanky VD 11/2012, in the sense, that they do not prevent proper understanding of the thesis ideas.

(15. Nedostatky v logickém členění práce, ve způsobu citací, v poznámkovém aparátu, v úrovni jazykového zpracování apod. snižují klasifikaci, a jsou-li na újmu srozumitelnosti nebo myšlenkové čistoty práce, mohou být i důvodem jejího hodnocení známkou „nevyhověl“.)

Supervisor: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 18.05.2017

Signature:

