



Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury
Posudek vedoucí bakalářská práce KAJL UHK

Autor práce Vladislav Sedláček
Studijní obor Anglický jazyk se zaměřením na vzdělávání (maior)
Společenské vědy se zaměřením na vzdělávání (minor)
Forma studia prezenční

Název práce (česky/anglicky) Role sexu a intimacy v románech Aldouse Huxleyho Konec civilizace a George Orwella Devatenáct set osmdesát čtyři/ Role of sex and intimacy in the novels Brave New World by Aldous Huxley and Nineteen-Eighty-Four by George Orwell

Vedoucí práce James David Clubb BA (Hons.)
Oponent práce Mgr. Jan Suk Ph.D.

Kritéria hodnocení práce	Hodnocení A-F
Obsahová stránka	
Formulace cílů práce	A
Vhodnost využití primárních a sekundárních zdrojů pro podporu argumentace	A
Rozsah a hloubka vlastní analýzy, kritický přístup ke zdrojům	B
Interpretace dat a splnění cílů práce	B
Formální stránka	
Logická struktura práce	A
Úroveň jazykového zpracování	A
Dodržení bibliografických norem	A

Komentáře k hodnocení

The bachelor's paper by Vladislav Sedláček deals with the role of sex and intimacy in Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Huxley's *Brave New World*, with a broader argument that these themes are used as catalysts for the characters' downfalls.

In the theoretical part of the paper, the author provides a general overview of the broader social definitions of love, sex, and intimacy based on relatively up-to-date literature. This first section (chapter 2.1 to 2.4) relies particularly on literature by Hatfield & Rapson 1997 & 2008, Watson 1972, and Lauer 2016, with some commentary based on Abramson & Pinkerton 1995. These subchapters provide a somewhat brief and narrow sociological/psychological exploration, which may have benefited from some further expansion, contextualisation, and a greater focus on more recent literature. It may have proven useful to explore a comparison with more novel-contemporary definitions of love, sex, and intimacy to further ground the context of these definitions to the historical context in which the novels were



written. However, the section, while on the short side, is generally well structured for its purpose.

The theoretical part of the paper also extends to biographies of both Orwell and Huxley (chapter 3.1, 3.2 & 4.1,4.2 respectively). The value of these chapters is to provide a grounding for the personal and social influences which may have inspired the two authors to consider the role of sex and intimacy in the ways they did. This exploration is further expounded and built upon in the analytical section (chapter 3.6 & 4.6), in which the author adeptly analyses the two author's attitudes towards sex and intimacy in terms of their upbringings, lifestyles and views. These subchapters are well supported by quality up-to-date literature and biographical/autobiographical sources where possible and where appropriate.

The main body of the analytical section of the paper revolves around a direct textual analysis of the role of sex and intimacy in both novels (chapter 3.4 & 4.4). These subchapters are a little descriptive in places but do succeed in providing quality analysis of the topic. The chapters are well referenced and supported, and the points made are properly introduced, justified, and concluded. The paper loses some of its focus here, however, as the initially described aspects of love, sex, and intimacy are not well separated. In several cases, love and intimacy are either blurred together in the analysis. In other cases, either love or intimacy are side-lined entirely. Very little of this analysis is built on the introductory definitions of love, sex, and intimacy, which calls into questions the ultimate value of the initial theoretical sections (chapters 2.1 to 2.4). It is also worth mentioning at this stage that the topic of love is used inconsistently throughout the paper: the title and initial abstracts have no mention of it, but the extended abstract and theoretical section do. In addition, the two analytical subchapters (chapter 3.4 & 4.4) only reference sex and intimacy in their titles. It would be highly beneficial if the author could provide better definition of the distinctions between love and intimacy in the novels and to expand on how they directly or indirectly relate to the topic of sex.

The secondary analytical section (chapter 3.5 & 4.5) considers the secondary proposition of the thesis: sex and intimacy as a catalyst of revolt and character downfall. These subchapters are well organised and clearly structured, and the analysis is clear and well supported. The author provides not only a quality analysis but also links the analysis to the biographical, historical, and social factors which may have played a role in Orwell's and Huxley's choices to use sex and intimacy in these ways in their novels. These subchapters might have worked better had they been split as the initial proposition of the thesis revolves around character downfall, but these subchapters somewhat mix together concepts of revolt, rebellion, and character downfall. A narrower, more focused approach which separated these issues into individual subchapters would have helped maintain focus.



In the final chapter of the paper, the author compares the approaches of the two novels. The analysis is again well structured, with justified and supported points throughout. The analysis considers the relationship between sex and power and the differing ways in which Orwell and Huxley approach this issue. I found especially interesting the author's thoughts on the humanizing and dehumanizing effects of sex and intimacy and control over sex and intimacy. I feel this section deserved a little more room to breathe as the analysis present is highly interesting, but it is cut short. However, this may be a topic to be expanded on in future work as dehumanization was not the central focus of this thesis.

The conclusion to the paper relates to the initial research questions; however, it is a little too short to effectively summarise the paper and provide a true conclusion.

Overall, the thesis is referenced appropriately, and its style and language are at a high level.

In conclusion, the submitted thesis by Vladislav Sedláček meets the requirements for a bachelor's thesis and proves his skills in formulating a strong and mature claim, his ability to critically analyse primary and secondary literature related to the topic, and his ability to correctly use and source reference materials using MLA citation standards.

Otázky k obhajobě

- 1) How are love and intimacy distinct in the novels based on your initial definitions?**
- 2) In what ways would you consider the two novels to be ultimately sex-positive or sex-negative?**