Univerzita Hradec Králové
Pedagogická fakulta

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury
Posudek vedoucí diplomové práce KAJL UHK

Autor práce	***Eliška Kramolišová***
Studijní obor	***Učitelství pro střední školy – anglický jazyk a literatura*** ***Učitelství pro střední školy – německý jazyk a literatura***
Forma studia	***prezenční***
Název práce (česky/anglicky)	***Motiv proměny osobnosti v kontextu 2. světové války v literatuře pro děti a mládež/ The Motif of Personality Transformation in the Context of the Second World War in Literature for Children and Young Adults***
Vedoucí práce	***Mgr. Helena Polehlová, Ph.D.***
Oponent práce	***Mgr. Františka Schormová, 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	A
Interpretace dat a splnění cílů práce	A
Formální stránka	
Logická struktura práce	A
Úroveň jazykového zpracování	A
Dodržení bibliografických norem	A

Komentáře k hodnocení

The diploma thesis by Eliška Kramolišová explores the topic of personality change in children's characters presented in selected English-written books for children and young adults.

In the theoretical part the author proceeds from the general introduction of children's literature in English (chapter 1.1), to the specific focus on the Second World War as a topic of children's literature (chapter 1.2). Although the topic may seem inappropriate for children's audience, the author justifies the benefits of presenting such problematic and tragic topics as the war even to children and young adults.

Chapter 2 offers a brief outline of the British and German evacuation schemes as many of the characters discussed in the analytical part had to be evacuated and uprooted from their familial background. Logically, chapter 3 introduces the term personality and personality transformation, offering a psychological input to the reader. Here, the topic may have been discussed in more details.

All the theoretical chapters are based on up-to-date academic literature by Reynolds 2011, Lathey 2005, Maltby, Day, and Macaskill 2002, Vágnerová 2010 and Mikšík 2009, and on internet sources focusing on evacuation schemes.
The contribution of these chapters lies in introducing functions and goals of children's literature and also in presenting the key terminology regarding the psychological aspect of personality.

The theoretical-analytical part presents the results of the author's research into six selected novels for children and young adults, the main focus being on the children's characters' development and personality change. Chapter 5 introduces the novels and their authors, briefly outlining the plot for the reader to be able to understand the characters' behaviour and its analysis. This chapter is abundant in quotations from the novels, aptly chosen and illustrating the point the author is making.

The greatest contribution of the thesis consists in the detailed analysis of the protagonists of the selected novels. Although the characters are obliged to face different challenges and have to overcome different obstacles, it follows that there are three key factors/aspects reoccurring: familial background, a sense of guilt, and a sense of belonging. Undoubtedly, the family background plays a crucial role in the life of every character, be it a biological family or a family receiving the protagonists as refugees. Very often it has a forming function. The author of the thesis clearly synthetises the characters' experience analysed in chapter 5 and identifies the characters undergoing an especially rapid personality change due to their being uprooted from their original family.

In subchapter 6.2, Carrie and Pierrot are identified as characters suffering from their feeling of guilt. This subchapter may have been slightly expanded with the topic of self-perception in Ada's case. The key topic of subchapter 6.3. is the sense of belonging, which is a fundamental need for all the characters and is closely related to the familial background. On the whole, the comparative chapter presents a clear synthesis of the personality aspects analysed in chapter 5, avoiding unnecessary repetition.

Regarding the formal aspects of the thesis, it is referenced appropriately and its style and language are performed on a high level, making it a really readable piece.

In conclusion, the submitted thesis by Eliška Kramolišová meets the requirements for a Master's thesis, and proves her skills of critical analysis of primary and secondary literature related to the topic, her skill of formulating research questions and fulfilling the objectives by means of analysis of aptly selected texts. As a supervisor, I confirm the candidate's long-lasting interest in the topic (her Bachelor's thesis (2022) focused on a related topic) and her skill of carrying out the research independently and responsibly.

Univerzita Hradec Králové
Pedagogická fakulta

Otázky k obhajobě

1) Were you, as a child, exposed to reading any children's book presenting a war? If so, what was your experience?

2) The Second World War is a setting of a number of children's books. Do you think there has to be a certain distance and interval from the conflict for the war to become a focus of children's literature? Are there children's books reflecting on more contemporary conflicts?

In Hradec Králové on 20th August 2024 Hodnotitel Helena Polehlová