

Euroculture Thesis Assessment Grid

Name of Student: **Gonza Topal (S2043831)**

Thesis Title: ***Idea of The West in The Magic Mountain. Literary and Cultural Approaches***

Home University: **University of Groningen**

Host University: **Palacký University of Olomouc**

Name of Supervisor: **Jozef Matula, PhD. (second supervisor)**

In this report, please consider the following:

1) Problem statement, method and theory:

a) The aims and objectives of the thesis – are these clearly identified and explained? Is there a well formulated problem statement?

The student clearly explains the aims and objectives of the thesis. The aim of the thesis is to present different forms and meanings of the term „Europe“ in Thomas Mann’s *The Magic Mountain*. The author of the thesis believes that „Europe“ exists in the novel as the space that is defined by the socio-geographical, cultural, historical and philosophical traits of the epoch.

The student clearly formulated the problem statement and her thesis is based on the hypothesis that various levels on which the novel reflects the notions of 'the West' on the background of contemporary Europe can be presented.

b) Has a suitable methodology and theoretical frame been taken to solve the stated problems?

In chapter *I.ii Methods of Analysis*, the student clearly presented the methodology, sources and limits of the thesis. She used critically selected sources for her own interpretation of the novel.

c) Does the conclusion provide convincing answers/proof to the initial questions/hypothesis?

The student was able to express her own ideas and opinions. I appreciate the conclusion of the thesis, where the student did not only summarize the partial conclusions of the previous chapters, but she presented her own perceptions of the notion of 'the West' through reading of the *The Magic Mountain*.

d) Does the research constitute an original contribution to the field of knowledge in this field or domain?

The student wrote an attractive thesis which deals with a topic related to the field of Euroculture (literature and the arts). The relationship of her thesis to the problem of European integration or culture is evident.

e) Is the research problem and the discussion of it of sufficient complexity for an MA level

I am persuaded that the presented MA thesis is sufficiently elaborated.

2) Structure:

a) Is the thesis coherently structured?

The thesis is coherently structured and its chapters follow the structure of the analyzed novel.

b) Are concepts clearly introduced and explained, and critically and consistently applied?

The thesis is an original piece of work, which did not reproduce what others have written on Thomas Mann's novel. It is the kind of research which shows the student's own academic ability to interpret a variety of sources and data critically.

3) Sources (primary and secondary):

a) Has (enough) relevant (primary and secondary) literature been adequately interpreted and integrated into the thesis?

I believe that the student used relevant literature for her MA thesis. However, she used only English sources and translations – the student could have quoted more from primary or secondary sources in German and/or other languages.

b) Is the bibliography/list of references complete and accurate?

The list of bibliography is more or less accurate. See also 3).a)

4) Stylistics:

a) Is the use of language (English) acceptable and of the required standard (i.e. no spelling mistakes and typos, range of vocabulary, grammar)?

The student used cultivated language which is acceptable for the required standard. The only critical note would be that the student sometimes used too long sentences (6 and more lines), which can make the text difficult to read and comprehend.

b) Are references in the text given in a coherent and consistent manner (either in-text or as footnotes)?

The references in the text are given in a coherent manner.

5) Format:

a) How is the thesis presented? (i.e. consistency in lay-out, choice of fonts, headings, tables and graphs)

The thesis is presented with coherent choice of fonts and paragraphs.

6) General:

a) Have recommended revisions been executed to a satisfying degree?

The communication with the student was very pleasant and without obstacles. The student actively cooperated with me as her second supervisor, she followed all my recommendations, and revised or extended some chapters after her discussion with me as the supervisor.

b) To what degree has the student been able to work independently?

The student showed a high level of independence with a great capability to present her own ideas and visions.

c) Any other relevant comments.

I think that the author of the thesis provided a very good analysis of the notion of "the West" by means of literature. From my point of view, it would be great to compare Thomas Mann with other European contemporary authors and philosophers. The comparison or dispute with other literary images of 'the West' would open a deeper debate on the roots of European civilization.

(National) Grade: **B**

Date: 15.5.2012

Signature:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. A. K.', written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.
