

# KATEDRA ANGLISTIKY A AMERIKANISTIKY FF UP V OLOMOUCI

## Hodnocení diplomové práce

Autor: Marie Kušniriková

Název práce: The Role of Artificial Humans in American Literature

Vedoucí práce: Prof. Michal Peprník

Oponent: Mgr. Robert Hýsek

	Hodnocení A,B,C, D, E  a F (nevyhovující)	Poznámky
1/ Cíl – záměr: vymezení	A	
splnění	A	
2/ Metoda/teorie/klíčové koncepty:  vymezení	A	
využití	B	To be honest, the constant emphasis on defining terms and entities was rather tedious, as the reader impatiently waits for the main idea to develop and move to unexpected areas; this academic shuffling around does not do any good to overall narration. Modern scientists, much like journalists and other creative professions, need to be able to “sell” their texts, ie. make their ideas appealing.
3/ Argumentace (schopnost formulovat východiska a závěry, logická koherence, schopnost generalizace a konkretizace)	A	Despite my disagreement with certain lines of thinking, see commentary.

4/ Znalost primární literatury	A	
5/ Znalost sekundární literatury (rozsah, adekvátnost, zmapování výzkumného pole)	C	The possible scope of works dealing effectively with PKD's novel is much larger. (Footnote: Check also <i>Shifting Realities</i> , selected writings by PKD.)
6/ Samostatnost (schopnost odborné polemiky, kritický úsudek), originalita	C	The work rather conforms with academic standards (albeit successfully) than attempts to elaborate an original viewpoint.
7/ Formální úroveň (dodržování zvolené bibliografické normy)	A	
8/ Jazyková a stylistická úroveň práce	B	Frequent confusion in upper-case letters in titles. Oxford comma, used in the introduction, was not used systematically in the rest of the text. The rules for English commas in general are not followed.
9/ Jazyková a stylistická úroveň resumé (v češtině, je-li práce psána v AJ)	B	One page, several mistakes (commas, etc.).
10/ Typografické provedení, úprava	B	Varying font size in in-text citations. Dozens of incorrect apostrophes.
11/ Struktura práce (členění práce na jednotlivé celky – účelnost, systematičnost, přehlednost)	B	The structure supports the argument... which is also a problem: preconceived concepts are followed and exaggerated (such as social criticism in PKD, or the switch to dystopian thematization due to the need to explore social elements, methinks).
12/ Poznámka k práci		Despite all my objections, the author obviously proves her academic skills and qualities.

Připomínky a otázky k obhajobě:

1. My main counter-argument concerns the debate on possible roles of artificial humans in one of the selected primary texts – *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* While I appreciated your analytical refusal of somewhat ideological reading concerning the representation of minorities etc. via artificial humans, since these entities are meant to represent themselves, especially in the context of dystopian literature and authors/visionaries such as Dick who are determined to question the possible realities of the future, I disagreed with your notion concerning the presence of social criticism in Dick's novel. You seem to have overlooked (which is further supported by the ignored theme of human empathy in Mercerism) the dominance of existential, ontological and metaphysical rather than social themes in PKD's work. The discussed novel, in my opinion, mainly strives to define inhumanity versus humanity, or post-humanity if you want, not to develop a „narrative of resistance“, even though such motifs are naturally present in the plot. Or, possibly, it is rather Deckard (Descartes?) who rebels and questions the status quo whose humanity is defined. Instead of “cogito ergo sum” Deckard suggests “she feels love, therefore she is (human)”. Please comment.
2. Why do you not also consider the option that narratives including artificial humans embody our concerns and fears, rather than hope and freedom connected to artificial humans as the legacy of humanity? In the foundations of this sub-genre, you have Isaac Asimov creating his laws of robotics...
3. This comment goes beyond the scope and intent of your work, however, if there is time to reflect on it, we may do so. How does your concept apply to the film adaptation of Dick's novel – *Blade Runner*? And perhaps its sequel?

Závěr:

Práce **je** doporučena k obhajobě.

Navržený klasifikační stupeň: B

V Olomouci dne 1. 6. 2018

Oponent Mgr. Robert Hýsek

