

Review of a BA Thesis

Supervisor

Reviewer

Author of the thesis: Ondřej Špaček	Number of the student: 45815418
Title of the thesis: The Development and Transformation of Temple Institutions of the 1st millennium BC	
Number of pages: 49 of pages in total, including: 37 pages of text, 8 pages of bibliography, 1 page of indices	
The review author: prof. PhDr. Jana Mynářová, Ph.D.	

Brief evaluation of the thesis:

(The selected subject, the structure of the thesis, the author's argumentation and critical assessment of the subject)

Ondřej Špaček has selected a notably intricate subject for his bachelor's thesis; however, he has skillfully structured and presented it in a manner that aligns effectively with the requisites of this category of academic work. From a formal perspective, there exist only a few minor points of critique. Firstly, the internal organization of the chapters and subchapters warrants attention; in the context of a doctoral thesis, for instance, these sections would conceivably incorporate more extensive analytical segments. Nevertheless, owing to the limitations imposed by the thesis type, certain sections necessitated a restrained treatment, which proves more than satisfactory for an undergraduate thesis. Yet, visually, these succinct segments disrupt the text's fluidity. Hence, a more suitable approach might have entailed amalgamating some of the briefer passages into larger segments. Nonetheless, the central framework of the thesis remains lucid and coherent. The individual components exhibit a logical progression, and the same applies to the employed language, which, with minor exceptions (see Tayma vs. Teima), is devoid of typographical errors. Nevertheless, I perceive the designations "Cuneiform tablets (1.1.1.1)" and "Royal inscriptions (1.1.1.2)" as somewhat ill-fitting. I am inclined to believe that "Non-Royal" and "Royal texts" would be more apt appellations in this context. Similarly, it would be more judicious to identify the works of Classical authors under that precise description, eschewing the term "Ancient Authors (1.1.3)." Evidently, Ondřej Špaček adeptly showcases his mastery of scholarly writing style and terminology. In terms of presentation, I would underscore the reader-friendly disposition of the text; however, a greater number of illustrations to complement the narrative would have been welcomed. Particularly, a geographical map of the mentioned sites and schematics of pertinent sites and architectural complexes are notably absent.

With regard to the subject matter, O. Špaček's bachelor's thesis proves remarkably successful. Despite the intricacy of the chosen subject, Ondřej Špaček admirably demonstrates his proficiency in navigating the pertinent literature. He evaluates the perspectives of fellow scholars critically, although I must note the potential for excessive reliance on the writings of classical authors. In his work, Ondřej adeptly formulates cogent research questions and hypotheses while diligently seeking their resolutions. He acknowledges the constraints inherent in the sources and adeptly articulates these limitations. The logical progression of his arguments allows readers to seamlessly trace the author's thought processes. Even with respect to the subject matter, Špaček's thesis impeccably fulfills the requirements of a bachelor's-level endeavor.

Just to add. On page 12, O. Špaček offers insights into the limited information accompanying Rassam's 1897 research. For future investigations into this topic, I would recommend that the author consult the archival materials held at the British Museum, offering an additional avenue for information acquisition, particularly Rassam's correspondence with representatives of the British Museum, excerpts of which might be found in the minutes of Trustee meetings. These sources hold potential as invaluable founts of knowledge concerning Rassam's undertakings at the site.

In conjunction with the thesis, I would like to pose the following question to O. Špaček regarding the nature of cuneiform text storage. Within your discourse, you allude to two conceivable means of storing such texts, specifically archives and libraries. Could you expound upon the distinction between these two types of institutions? Furthermore, how might this terminology be applied to the context of the Ebabbar Temple space?

I. Formal criteria

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Sufficient	Insufficient
Scientific aspect of the thesis					
Unified form of references, bibliography and notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sufficient referencing to other scholars' works (suitable scientific practice)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal aspect of the thesis					
Structure of the thesis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity of form (Table of contents, division of chapters, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Captions to figures and tables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language					
Clarity and comprehensibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orthography, grammar, diacritics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scholarly terminology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Form and visual aspect					
Layout, font size	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selection and quality of figures, tables and graphs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commentary on the formal aspects of the thesis: see the general evaluation

II. Subject matter

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Sufficient	Insufficient
Structure of the thesis					
Overview of previous studies on the subject (and theoretical background)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logical interconnections within the structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarity of argumentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with literature					
Selection of scholarly literature on the subject	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Using relevant literature in argumentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical assessment of the literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Methodology					
Formulations of questions and hypotheses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selection of sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transparency of the criteria for the selection of sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acknowledgment of the limits of the study of the sources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results					
Clarity of the hypotheses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasoning of the hypotheses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integration into scholarly studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

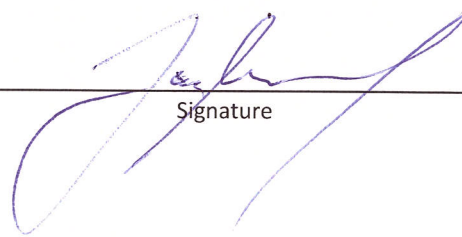
Commentary on the subject matter: see the general evaluation

Final result:¹

Excellent

August 30, 2023

Date


Signature

¹ Excellent – Very good – Good – Insufficient