La Sapienza

Valutazione tesi 35 e 36 ciclo

BAGOZZI VALENTINA

Evaluation form for PhD dissertation

Evaluation form

Title of the thesis

The Women's Decameron, a legitimation of women's authorship

Affiliation of the reviewer

Palacký University Olomouc, Czechia

Report

The dissertation by Valentina Bagozzi focuses on Julia Voznesenskaya's noteworthy text The Women's Decameron, which definitely deserves the attention of literary scholars. Bagozzi fits her textual analysis into the framework of Russian women's writing and into the context of feminist interpretation. Probably the major contribution of this thesis can be found in the publication of archival materials from the funds of Julia Voznesenskaya at the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen, which are used by Bagozzi in her interpretation and history of the different variants of the text of The Women's Decameron.?The current revised version of the dissertation has much clearer structure compared to the previous version, however, in some parts the connection and logical sequence is still not very comprehensible. In some cases, especially in the introductory part, the thesis lacks the support of relevant scientific literature or examples (e.g. on p. 4: Scholars interested in Russian women's writing encourage a systematic investigation of the phenomenon and the discovery of previously neglected literary works by combining the authors' biographical research and close readings of their texts (with no reference).

On the other hand, I greatly appreciate the author's emphasis on context, and in particular, on the discussion of women's prose in the context of Russian literary criticism. ?In terms of language, the author has failed to avoid the overuse of the Saxon genitive (e.g. p. 15 - Russian literary criticism's double standards, the impact of the nineteenth century's category, p. 16 - women's writing's historical periods, p. 17 - evolution of patriarchal discourse's influence), which unfortunately often complicates the understanding of a given text.

However, in general, the thesis is of a good standard and I recommend it for defence.On the other hand, I greatly appreciate the author's emphasis on context, and in particular, on the discussion of women's prose in the context of Russian literary criticism.

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Confidential report (it will not be shown to the candidate)

Evaluation file (optional)

Presentation and clarity

[ ] None   [ ] Poor   [**X**] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

The reviewer should be able to read the text without difficulty. This implies that the dissertation is clear and 'user friendly', without duplications or repetitions.

Integration and coherence

[ ] None   [**X**] Poor   [ ] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

The manuscript should present logical and rational links between different parts of the thesis.

Introduction to scientific background

[ ] None   [ ] Poor   [**X**] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

The text should contain a satisfactory introduction to the scientific background which is relevant to the research, preparing the reader to the exposition of the problem.

Review of relevant literature

[ ] None   [ ] Poor   [X] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

The candidate must have a detailed knowledge of original sources, have a thorough knowledge of the field, and understand the main theoretical and methodological issues.

Statement of research problem

[ ] None   [X] Poor   [ ] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

A clear statement of the research problem should be made, together with specific hypotheses, predictions, or questions which the research is designed to address.

Originality

[ ] None   [ ] Poor   [ ] Average   [ ] Good   [X] Excellent

The research must be the candidate's own work. The degree of independence may vary according to the research topic.

Contribution to knowledge and scientific relevance

[ ] None   [ ] Poor   [ ] Average   [X] Good   [ ] Excellent

The dissertation should be substantial enough to be able to form the basis of two articles on refereed journal, a book or research monograph.

Mastery of the English language

[ ] None   [**X**] Poor   [ ] Average   [ ] Good   [ ] Excellent

The candidate must be proficient in written English and show mastery of appropriate scientific/technical language.

A major goal of the review process is to evaluate if the present version of the thesis is:

1) adequate as is

2) require minor revision

3) require major revision

for admission of the candidate to the defense of the work in front of a national evaluation board.

[**X**] Accept as is   [ ] Minor revision   [ ] Major revision

Date: 12/11/2023
Reviewer: Andrejs René