

OPPONENT'S REVIEW OF PETRA KLUPKOVÁ'S B.A. THESIS

Ms. Klupková's B.A. thesis on the power of self-delusion in the selected dramas by Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller is an extremely focused, precise and analytical piece of writing. The author is able to meaningfully work with the relevant secondary sources as well as draw her own conclusions. In that respect, I consider particularly valuable her observations on role-playing and language in chapter 2, but the whole argument is fluent and persuasive.

However, my role is to point out a few small errors, as well as to raise questions asking for further explanation. First, I would like to know in what sense is Ms. Klupková using the term „pathetic“: see e.g. p. 11, „the pathetic condition of their present time“, and then p. 23, „on the surface a pathetic victim“. Second, I am not that sure if Christopher Bigsby is primarily a „literary analyst“ (p. 15). And third, I feel Ms. Klupková is slightly contradicting herself: see p. 29, „his own improved perception of reality“, versus p. 32, „Happy's dependency on delusion“. In addition, there is a misspelled Shepard's surname on p. 45, as well as Miller's first name in the Czech title. And, last but not least, Ms. Klupková should get rid of the influence of English on her Czech: she is excessively using possessive pronouns, and confusing „jeho“ and „svůj“.

Finally, in the conclusion Ms. Klupková compares just the idea of hope as to those two selected dramas, which is absolutely reasonable, but at the same time forgets to sum up the other features she was trying to compare. May I thus ask her to briefly do so during the defense?

Depending on the review of the supervisor and Ms. Klupková's response, I believe that the submitted thesis should be graded „excellent“.

Prague, June 13, 2010

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