



FACULTY OF ARTS
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE



Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Review

Petra Klupková, "The Power of Self-Delusion in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* and Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*," BA thesis

Choice of Topic:

The proposed topic of this BA thesis is certainly a fruitful one, although it is also one much researched and studied, and this brings certain commitments that the thesis generally manages successfully.

Thesis statement / aims and objectives:

The project is constructed around an overt hypothesis: that "the power of self-delusion [is] the main destructive element" in the selected plays, and that these plays "represent a distinct tendency in American drama." Ms Klupková's objectives are clearly outlined and a comparative approach is meticulously applied. Nevertheless, to her credit, she remains sensitive to the differences in perspective that ultimately are to be discovered.

Structure and development:

The work is logically structured around three interconnected areas: self, family and society. Ms Klupková consistently supports and illustrates her hypothesis with reference to the plays. While the thesis is not constructed in relation to a theoretical position, this lack is amply compensated for by the detailed and perceptive nature of the readings of the plays. Some further sub-headings may have made the core chapters slightly more navigable; however this is a peripheral issue given the perspicacity of the analysis.

Research:

The research on Miller, in particular, is strong; the materials on O'Neill are rather more scant. The thesis demonstrates adequate skill in searching for, selecting, and evaluating sources.

Use of sources:

There are few formal or stylistic issues concerning the use of sources. Materials have been carefully cited throughout. At times differing critical views of the plays may have been given more attention.

Stylistics and language:

Ms Klupková's writing style is fluent, consistent and accomplished.

Format:

A great deal of care has been taken with format of the project.

I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade the work "excellent" / 1.

14.6.2010


Clare Wallace, PhD