Ms. Salajová´s B.A. thesis – review written by the supervisor

Ms. Salajová´s B.A. thesis, Gender, Race, and Class: Intersectional Analysis of Kate Chopin´s The Awakening and Selected Short Stories, is a scholarly work relying on a relatively recent concept of intersectionality, and applying it in a useful and relevant manner. The thesis is both focused and clearly structured, and Ms. Salajová´s language is always precise and accurate; thus, the final argument is both fluent and persuasive, theoretically way above the average expected at B.A. level. This being the case, I think my role is to point out what could have been done differently (which does not necessarily mean better), and what might have been added.

In her analyses of the selected short stories, Ms. Salajová goes directly into intersectionality, not mentioning the previous local color and feminist interpretations. Were there any she could have chosen for the purposes of a brief overview, or was that not part of her project? And once she writes in her conclusion that „a number of other published intersectional analyses were not available" (p. 65), how many studies does she roughly mean, and how unavailable were they? And there is one more point in the conclusion that makes me wonder: once Ms. Salajová states that her conclusion would have been „less ambiguous" had she chosen „for example, a story with a white female heroine and women of color in subordinate positions" (p. 66), why has she decided not to include such a story? Because there is simply none?

Last but not least, I feel obliged to comment on the abstract written in Czech. In my opinion, there is no reason to use the capital letter in „v Americké společnosti" and „Mammy", and it is certainly inconsistent to use the female surname ending in e.g. Chopinová, but not in Pegues. And since this section is written in Czech, I believe Ms. Salajová could have either translated the English titles of the given short stories herself, or used the already existing ones (see e.g. Krásná Zoraida in Cesta Amerikou, edited by Dagmar Pegues and Tereza Kynčlová and published a few years ago by Host).

Since my critical comments and reservations are, as I have already stressed, truly minor, I am suggesting the following grade: výborně/excellent. The final result, though, depends on the review written by the opponent, as well as on Ms. Salajová´s performance during the oral defense.

Prague, Aug 21, 2016

Dr. Hana Ulmanová