

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Markéta Reguli

Title: Landscape in Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native*

Length: 36

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| <i>Assessment Criteria</i> | <i>Scale</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|--|---|-----------------|
| 1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate). | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |

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|---|---|--|
| 7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |
| 8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided. | Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient | |

Final Comments & Questions

This is an exceptional thesis, in which enthusiasm and critical insight meet half resulting in a very readable and informed text. The novel itself, although much valued by the critics and Hardy's fans, is not an easy text to analyze for a bachelor student and the author is to be congratulated for coping with it so well. The author is right in writing that the Genius Loci of Egdon Heath in this novel is unique among (not only) 19th century novels.

1) Still, there are writers for whom the intimate knowledge of a real landscape or cityscape was similarly essential....Some of them, English, Czech or other could be mentioned at the oral defense.

2) Hardy sounds rather hostile towards "modernity" in the novel, what may be the novel's relevance to nowadays, which contemporary trends may resonate with it?

3) Although the thesis is primarily about landscape, since the characters are discussed as well, it makes one think – is there a truly likeable (human) character at all in the novel? Is it Clym?

4) Last but not least, in a footnote to the novel, Hardy wrote: "... the original conception of the story did not design a marriage between Thomasin and Venn. He was to have retained his isolated and weird character to the last ... Thomasin remaining a widow ... But certain circumstances of serial publication led to a change of intent. Readers can therefore choose between the endings, and those with an austere artistic code can assume the more consistent conclusion to be the true one." Would the originally planned ending be appreciated by the author of the thesis?

Regardless of the answers to the questions above, which are rather meant to further discussion at the defense, the thesis may be considered excellent.

Supervisor: Magdaléna Potočňáková, Ph.D.

Date: 20th August 2017

Signature:

