

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

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Thesis Author: Simona Hejhalová  
 Title: Fiction and Empathy  
 Length: 30  
 Text Length: 27 (61,000 characters, incl spaces)

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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 an overview of the thesis.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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).	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The discussions of CQ and of the theoretical texts about empathy and fiction are excellent.
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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.		
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 <b>Very good</b> 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	Punctuation of in-text references is incorrect throughout. The title of Leila Aboulela's work is formatted as a long text throughout, when it should be formatted as a short text.

#### Final Comments & Questions

In many respects this is an outstanding thesis that deserves a higher grade than I will ultimately recommend. The student skilfully reviews the theoretical literature in the area, deftly bringing together different writers. The discussion of *Pride and Prejudice* excellently brings together the main argument of the thesis in a penetrating analysis. The decision to end with a review of Mourão's ideas was a good one. The choice of books was adventurous and well-founded.

However, the discussion of Atwood's and Aboulela's works was cursory and the student did not do them the same justice she did Austen. The discussion of Mourão, while good, was not drawn persuasively into the argument, but was left hanging at the end. Perhaps these are the signs of a little rush before submission.

I would not like to end on a negative point, so I repeat that I found the thesis well-written and engaging and the student can be proud of the work she has done here.

I recommend the grade of **2/velmi dobře**.

Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 31 August 2020

Signature: