Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Barbora Hanzlovská

Title: USING THE FICTION OF KAZUO ISHIGURO TO DECONSTRUCT CULTURAL STEREOTYPES

Length: 34

Text Length: 32

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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	**Outstanding** Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	

	author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Very deficient	
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

The author is to be congratulated on her hard work and the depth of her knowledge. Rarely have I had the pleasure to direct a more talented or hardworking student. The end result, the diploma could be used as a model for the entire culture program, and I am sure it will be used as such in the near future. We should also recognize that the diploma is ambitious as it seeks to cover three novels instead of just one or two. Typically, one of the major issues with diploma works is that of scope, that is to say, the author does not know how to focus his or her coverage to fill up 30 pages properly. Either there is too much coverage of the material or not enough. Three Ishiguro novels could easily make up the body of a Ph.D. dissertation, and I am still a bit amazed that the author was able to whittle these early novels down to a contextual core that perfectly addresses her theme—stereotypes, without falling into plot summary or some other disservice to the novels. In the defense, I would like to hear the author explain the difference between a literary understanding of stereotypes as compared to a scientific understanding of stereotypes and explain how the two concepts are linked in the works of Ishiguro. This is well explained in the diploma already, but it would be prudent for the student to begin with the connection of literature to cognitive psychology as the basis for our discussion. Then we can move on to particular stereotypes (i.e. Butler, Samurai) Ishiguro makes use of in his novels. From there the opponent will lead the discussion into areas she feels could use improvement or further research.
Suggested grade: Excellent

Supervisor: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 31. 5. 2021

Signature: