

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Dominik Polák

Title: Understanding Cultural Assimilation Through the English-Speaking International Film
Midsommar

Length: 30

Text Length: 26

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	There is a lot of plot summary here – see note 8 below.
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	Although the thesis has only 26 pages, this works out at 54,380 characters (incl. spaces) which is 380 characters over the minimum length. That the student is aware of this is perhaps indicated by the fact that the conclusion is padded with plot summary (which comes after a lot of unnecessary plot summary in chapter 1.) The thesis feels short, and certainly could have explored the film more persuasively (see notes below). In-text quotes are formatted incorrectly (e.g., 5).

Final Comments & Questions

This was an excellent choice of movie for a BA thesis at our program. The student deals critically with white supremacy, indoctrination, and cults, displaying discrimination in his use of secondary sources relating to these concepts and integrating them well into his argument. For instance, his discussion of racial diversity among Vikings was very well pulled off. The strongest chapter was the final one about empathy.

Nevertheless, the thesis seems like a missed opportunity. The student writes that "the main focus of this thesis is on the process of indoctrination depicted in the movie *Midsommar*" (4). There are many ways the student could have connected this with some of the ideas of intercultural communication that he studied during the course of his BA studies, but in the submitted text these are mainly peripheral to the argument (identification of Pelle as a native informant, stereotypes of Sweden). More could have been done.

For instance, the film hinges on a confrontation between Sweden and the US, and thus invites deeper analysis of intercultural aspects. White supremacy deals in national and ethnic stereotypes – there could have been further analysis of this dynamic. Also, the student could have investigated Swedish responses to the movie. One Swedish resident with whom I talked about the movie, for instance, felt it reduced the country to caricature; this isn't substantial evidence, but it suggests that Swedish responses may shed light on the issue of intercultural communication and miscommunication in the movie, as well as the dynamic of deception. Cultural intelligence offers another good approach: Pelle has high CQ, even as while negotiating in a second language; in contrast, Christian and Josh, although students of anthropology who should know better, display low CQ, for which they pay with their lives.

I propose the grade **velmi dobře/2**.

Supervisor/Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 10 May 2023

Signature: