

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric (Methodology, Linguistics)
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Eva Křížová

Title: The Way of Fairy Tale – From India to Europe Jacobs' Princess Labam vs. Erben's Goldilocks

Length: 32

Text Length: 25

<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	see below
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	see below
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	see below
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	see below
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	see 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 author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	see below
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	see below

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	see below
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Final Comments & Questions

In the Introduction, the aims are stated clearly: to confirm the fact that stories change depending on the culture and customs of a given country. The early chapters are rich in information, they deal with various authors and their approaches. The author successfully builds a solid basis for later research by providing necessary historical facts and connections, proceeding from the most general knowledge up to the more detailed focus on Indian literature including folklore and particular fairy tales. She introduces the most significant collectors and authors in the area of fairy tales production; we get here a decent survey of personalities presented in a clear way. In certain places, especially at the beginning of the first theoretical chapter, this overview can appear more like a construction built from quotations taken from the literature rather than the author's own insight, and her voice is somewhat lost in this "list". I attribute this procedure to the concern that the work be as objective as possible and that the author does not commit any inaccuracies. Otherwise the text is pleasantly readable and brings interesting information. Within the question of emphasis on the ideal of feminine beauty in classical fairy tales, the author introduces a note that "a few modern fairy tale retellings and adaptations attempt to challenge the norms of beauty that have been in place for centuries". Here I would appreciate an example of such a story illustrating this contrast.

I like the combination of approaches of the older literature authors (e.g. 1908, 1932,) and those of the newest ones (2020, 2022).

A fairly significant part of the text is devoted to the biography of Joseph Jacobs and his contribution to the genre. This chapter serves as a good foundation for the comparative research by the author of the thesis.

The analysis itself is clear, dealing chronologically with individual phases of the stories showing the differences and similarities. The chapter also contains the author's own commentaries on the reasons for these contrasts or accordance, from which the clear answer to the research question comes to its confirmation.

The conclusion chapter summarises the findings, but what I miss is the presence of summary of the connections of the differences to the cultural and regional background of the countries. Although this was presented in the analysis itself, it should appear in the Conclusion as well.

Generally, the author uses simple English on a fairly good level, however, there is a certain number of grammatical mistakes, e.g. p. 13, the third line from the bottom – the adjectival clause is non-identifying thus there should be a comma at its beginning; the ordinal numeral should be preceded by the definite article: "...Sir William Jones from *the* eighteenth century, *who* collected and translated many Indian folk tales during his time in India." Page 14, the third paragraph – the anticipatory "it" is missing: "According to studies... *it* has been declared that India is the Home of the Fairy Tale." The indefinite article missing on page 23, second paragraph: "...the second book...*is a* collection of...", page 19, the middle – past tense instead of present tense: "...but the hero *finds* (x *finds*) a way." Page 22, the fifth line from the bottom – incorrect word order and a false realisation of the verb: "The significant role in the stories *has* animals." X Animals have a significant role in the stories. Page 23, the second paragraph – incorrect preposition: "...the story from (*by*) Božena Němcová."

The evaluation suggested: "very good" or "good", depending on the oral defence performance.

Suggestion for the discussion:

...the author introduces a note that "a few modern fairy tale retellings and adaptations attempt to challenge the norms of beauty that have been in place for centuries". Here I would appreciate an example of such a story illustrating this contrast.

Opponent: PhDr. Naděžda Stašková, PhD.

Date: 25.8.2023

Signature: