

Department of Montage

Final Thesis Evaluation

Author: Natalia Posada Ruiz

Title: **El Velador, The distance montage of a drug war**

Evaluation by the Thesis Mentor

Author of Evaluation (name, surname, department): Martin Čihák, Montage

Evaluation of the content and resulting form of a theoretical Thesis:

Appropriate choice of Thesis objective and approach.....	B
Relative completeness of the literature search in relation to the topic	A
Ability to adopt a critical approach and use specialised literature sources	A
Logical structure of the Thesis, continuity and proportionality of chapters	B
Linguistic level and style	B
Compliance with the bibliography standards (no thesis may be recommended for defence if there are multiple quote sections indicating no source in the text).....	B
Sufficient extent of images, justification for and appropriateness of such images, graphic representation.....	A
Originality of the Thesis, contribution to the field of interest	B
Overall Evaluation of the Thesis (A-F)	B

(*explanation: A = outstanding performance exceeding the criteria above, B = above-average performance with minimum errors, C = average performance with an acceptable level of error, D = acceptable performance with a higher level of error, E = performance merely satisfying the criteria, F = unacceptable performance*)

Recommendations:

The individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis includes a paragraph summarising the contents and conclusions of the Thesis; presents a more detailed evaluation of the aforementioned criteria, particularly the justification for the D, E, F grades; points out the positive features of the Thesis, particularly if the grade is A, B; formulates the questions for the student to answer during the defence; in conclusion, the evaluation gives a clear statement on whether the author has demonstrated the ability to work creatively and independently in his/her chosen area of research or not, whether the Thesis meets the standard requirements for final theses or not, whether the Supervisor/Opponent recommends the Thesis for defence or not, and the proposed grade. Typically, the verbal evaluation takes 1 standard page; if there are no objections to the Thesis, it may be shorter. With theses where there is nothing to criticise, an additional question should be asked as to where the student should direct his/her subsequent research.

Individual verbal evaluation of the theoretical Thesis:

The main intention of this thesis was to use the Peleshyan's theory of distance montage as a tool for discovering and analyzing the editing principles of a 52 minutes long documentary *El Velador* made by Mexican director Natalia Almada in 2011.

This aim was successfully reached in many aspects.

In the first part (Chapter Two) Natalia presents the basic ideas of Peleshyan's theory and compares them (p. 27-29) with an experiment of three Colombian editors called „Mapa mudo, un relato en trenza“ (Silent Map, a braided narrative). Albeit it is very interesting and innovative, some details could be critically discussed.

The core of Natalia's thesis (Chapter Three) is based on selection of six „bearing“ motives („bearing“ as a term used by Peleshyan – „bearing shots“) and describing their occurrence during the whole film in order to analyze their function in „braided narrative“ of the film *El Velador*.

After all Natalia came to final synthesis that is presented (or visualized) on the Diagram 3 (p. 57) - „the cylindrical structure of the film“. Why the author is so „humble and brief“, and she doesn't explain us more about this outstanding diagram? (Natalia comments only the line of Martin - El Velador.) After the detailed reading I came to conclusion that there are some inaccuracy concerning exact geometrical terminology and the shapes (curves) presented in a diagram, that could be improved by more elaborated commentary. (f.e. why the point End (Beginning) of a helix curve is far away from the point labeled as End (Beginning)? Etc.)

I appreciate, and it was proved during the many consultations, that Natalia's knowledges are wider and deeper that could be seen on the first sight from the text. Natalia's Thesis meets the standard requirements for final theses on a very high level. I recommend this thesis for defense and propose the grade **B**.

Questions for the student to answer during the defense:

Q 1: Natalia, could you explain the difference between the terms **perceptual** and **explanatory** documentary (p. 29 „Their point was to make a perceptual documentary, more than explanatory documentary“) and how it is related to the analyzed film *El Velador*?

Q 2: Many times you are pointing at the intentionally absence of spoken words that could distract our emotions (p. 60). What is the semantic difference between the **“spoken words”** (as a voice over, talking heads, interviews etc.) and the voices that are presented in some scenes through TV news?

Q 3: Diagram 3 (p. 57) Could you explain what represents the **vertical axis** of the cylinder and its **diameter**? How you came to the this proportion between diameter and the high of the cylinder?

Date:17. 09. 2022

Signature: