

OPPONENT'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title:	The Representation of Youth in Lebanese Cinema
Thesis author:	Leila Basma
Programme of study:	CDM
Programme type:	Master's

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment: 10 points

5

In abstract, the student claims "Finally, the thesis aims to [...] analyze the differences it has with the Western young generation." - this is entirely missing from the thesis, other than Lebanese films are mentioned only in passing.

Topicality of the thesis topic

(and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis): 10 points

3

The student does not specify any method, and none particular method is being used. Leila watched films about youth and described their stories, nothing much more.

The chapter "Research Method" does not say anything about research method.

Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice: 5 points

2

The work cannot be named "scholarly" – it is missing methods, it is missing analysis and/or interpretation, it is purely descriptive. The Lebanese films Leila mentions in the film are only shortly describe, we get the information „what it is about“ and this is it. There is missing any attempt to analyze and/or interpret those films.

Logical construction and structuring of the thesis: 10 points

10

The thesis is quite logically constructed.

Formal requirements and requisite contents of the thesis, including its length: 20 points

13

Formally, the thesis fulfill most of the requirements.

Work with information sources: 5 points

2

Leila is using sources purely to add some more information about the film, about its background, or background of its authors. She never argues with her sources, she does not use sources that may be very helpful, that is general literature about coming-of-age films, that would be a wonderful context into which she may put the Lebanese movies.

Also, unfortunately, in the bibliography there is not even a single entry that would be correct – mostly the names of articles are missing, elsewhere the publisher. Therefore, it is hard to judge the relevance of the sources since their subject is unclear.

Level of language, style and terminology: 15 points

12

At parts, Leila struggles with the sentences' construction, also is not consistent in writing "coming-of-age" (even in one paragraph, see the last paragraphs on the page 8 and 10) – sometimes the letters C and A are capitalized, sometimes not. Other than that is the thesis written quite well.

Evaluator's overall summary: 25 points

Leila is using throughout her thesis the terms that are never explained – eg. I do not understand fully what "loss of innocence" is supposed to be, and how is demonstrated in discussed films. At page 13 we read: "Innocence is naturally a big part of childhood and can be represented by many traits; naivety, purity, lack of knowledge, state of pure happiness and care-free behavior. The moment the protagonist of the story has grown out this state is when the protagonist has experienced their coming-of-age[.]" Does it mean that the adults cannot be innocent, happy, and care-free? And what does it even mean? Those parts are, unfortunately, very vague.

Conclusion is quite problematic. For instance, Leila states "In comparison to the youth of most of the Western societies, the Lebanese and Arab youth, from the 1970s until today, had endured a lot." First of all, the coming of age on itself is "a lot", and there are so many conflicts and events going on all around the world that is very short-sighted to imply that the coming-of-age of the west youth is somewhat easier than in the case of Lebanese teenagers. In the second paragraph, Leila claims that "The films analyzed in the previous texts assure that Lebanese coming-of-age films can rarely be

disconnected from their socio-political environment and the period the storyline takes place in" – however, can it be ever? The "west" teenagers (as everyone else for that matter) live at very concrete place and in the specific time and none of them can avoid "their socio-political environment" either.

Even when the quality of the thesis is not high, Leila still proves the certain orientation on the subject and I do recommend her thesis for the defence.

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

Recommendation of the thesis for the oral defence: I do recommend the thesis for the defence.

Recommended grade: D

Date of elaboration of this assessment: 28th of August 2023

.Petra Dominková
2023

28th of August,



Name of the thesis opponent
(date and signature)