

La Sapienza

Revisione esterna tesi dott. GIOVANNI RAFFA

RUSSO EMILIANA

La zgodność z oryginałem
UNIWERSYTET ŚLĄSKI
W KATOWICACH
Wydział Humanistyczny
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Evaluation form for PhD dissertation

Evaluation form

Title of the thesis

An investigation into Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation (OP): Systematising debates and data, and exploring OP at the Globe in the 21st century

Affiliation of the reviewer

Roma Tre University

Report

Emiliana Rossi's PhD thesis investigates 21st century reconstructions of OP aiming at organising and classifying present day scholarly debates on such controversial object. In order to do so, the author scrutinises academic evidences and methodologies, while also offering a reasoned survey of related theatrical productions, with a specific qualitative focus on *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe, 2004) and *Troilus and Cressida* (Shakespeare's Globe 2005). From her interdisciplinary perspective that includes studies on historical linguistics, literature and audience reception, the author not only relies on an impressive academic bibliography but also resorts to non-academic sources such as newspaper articles and reviews, as well as to field work at the Shakespeare's Globe in London to investigate the use and reception of reconstructed pronunciation in theatre. The research finally comes to criticize the reliability of some tools (e.g. rhymes) and calls for an expansion of the corpus of scholars, while problematizing the reconstructions made by the leading figure in the field, David Crystal. From the point of view of linguistics, the author claims that studies on OP show a certain opacity of suprasegmentals, the existence of a "usual speech" and the lack of clear indications for some regional and foreign sounds; while, on the side of theatrical productions, OP seems to be not always comprehended and appreciated by spectators. Considering all this, the thesis courageously lessens the initial enthusiasm for OP, which appears to the author as a present day artifact still in much need of being further investigated. A special mention of merit should be made for the wealth of materials made available in the appendixes in the second volume of the thesis, including the author's phonetic transcriptions: these are all precious tools for further scholarly inquiries.

Confidential report (it will not be shown to the candidate)

Evaluation file (optional)

Presentation and clarity

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The reviewer should be able to read the text without difficulty. This implies that the dissertation is clear and 'user friendly', without duplications or repetitions.

Integration and coherence

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The manuscript should present logical and rational links between different parts of the thesis.

Introduction to scientific background

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The text should contain a satisfactory introduction to the scientific background which is relevant to the research, preparing the reader to the exposition of the problem.

Review of relevant literature

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The candidate must have a detailed knowledge of original sources, have a thorough knowledge of the field, and understand the main theoretical and methodological issues.

Statement of research problem

None Poor Average Good Excellent

A clear statement of the research problem should be made, together with specific hypotheses, predictions, or questions which the research is designed to address.

Originality

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The research must be the candidate's own work. The degree of independence may vary according to the research topic.

Contribution to knowledge and scientific relevance

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The dissertation should be substantial enough to be able to form the basis of two articles on refereed journal, a book or research monograph.

Mastery of the English language

None Poor Average Good Excellent

The candidate must be proficient in written English and show mastery of appropriate scientific/technical language.

The thesis can be considered for a 'cum laude' award

Yes No

A major goal of the review process is to evaluate if the present version of the thesis is:

- 1) adequate as is
- 2) require minor revision
- 3) require major revision

for admission of the candidate to the defense of the work in front of a national evaluation board.

Accept as is Minor revision Major revision

Date: 6/16/2024

Reviewer: Pennacchia Maddalena