According to the reading passage, there are several theories of the “Irish round towers” have been proposed. Nevertheless, the professor in the lecture argues against these three theories.

The first possibility in the writing is that the towers were built as protective forts to defend invaders such as the Vikings of Scandinavia. The writing proves this theory by pointing out that the doors of towers were built high above the ground. However, the professor disagrees with the writing by pointing out the structural necessity of the door being built at such height.

The professor claims that buildings need a strong foundation to support them. The builders have to fill the bottom with soil and stones to make the towers stable, and it needs meters to fill the foundation, so the doors had to be built several meters higher above the ground.

The second possibility is that the Irish tower once was used as a bell tower. At the time, many European towns had bell towers, which were used as a tool of communication, so it is acceptable that the round tower was once a bell tower. The passage supports with this opinion by pointing out that the traditional name for towers sounds alike to the Irish word that means “bell house”. However, the professor argues that the “bell house” and the “stone house” do not sound alike in Irish. Additionally, there was no agricultural evidence that the bell towers once had a bell.

The last possibility the passage points out is the “round tower” was built as a watchtower. These watchtowers were used for observing the surrounding areas. Since all Irish towers are tall buildings, it is possible that they were built to provide a high place for guards or watchmen to see enemies, local inhabitants, or visitors approaching from afar. However, the professor mentions that the tower was built in a valley where hills surround the tower and block its sight. Additionally, there are only a few small windows facing certain directions, which is not convenient for observers to watch.