

Abstract

The dissertation aims at the analysis of the traditional linguistic worldview of the woman in Czech. Theoretically and methodologically, the dissertation follows from the modern Polish ethnolinguistics, i.e. a discipline focusing on the studies of language in relation to culture, which uses the term of “linguistic worldview”, referring specifically to the ways in which the values and experience of the particular society have been written into its language. The aim of the dissertation is to reconstruct the image (the stereotype) of the woman in Czech, i.e. to reveal the structure of stereotypical characteristics related to the woman in the language and the culture. The attention was paid primarily to the traditional image, built in the centuries before the dramatic changes of the society and the women’s role in modern times. The analysis of the Czech vocabulary (including phraseology) and of the traditional songs lyrics, minor folklore genres as well as classical Czech literature has led to the reveal and subsequent characterization of four specific modes of the linguistic worldview of the woman, divided according to the three aspects (profiles) – the age, the appearance and the social role – as the young girl (maiden), the wife, the mother and the old woman. Each of them involves the general as well as specific features of the woman stereotype. In accordance with some Czech works from the fields of cultural history, ethnology and sociology, the dissertation highlights both the important role of the female body (in relation to sexuality and fertility) and the mutual influence of biological and cultural factors in constituting the traditional image of the woman. The description of traditional linguistic stereotypes related to the woman – which in many aspects could not avoid mentioning complementary stereotypes related to men – may serve well in the future as a starting point for the analysis of current stereotypes.