

Abstrakt (anglicky)

The main question of this thesis is whether the Christian church used stories containing monster beings with the aim of converting the Anglo-Saxon society to the new faith. This question is looked at through interpretative and content analysis of several Old English texts from the *Nowell Codex*. These are: the heroic-elegiac poem *Béowulf*, the travelogue *The Letter of Alexander to Aristotle*, the hagiographic text *The Passion of St Christopher* and the bestiary *Liber Monstrorum*, which is the only afore mentioned text not included in the *Nowell Codex*. The first chapter of this thesis provides a basic summary of the perception of monster beings from the prehistoric times to the Middle Ages. The next chapter analyses the role of the hero, nature and the distance of the British Isles from the centre of the World as perceived at the time. This chapter ends with the analysis of the pagan elements in the poem *Béowulf*. The last chapter focuses on the interpretations of monster beings in Christian settings and analyses the chosen Old English texts on a Christian interpretative level. The thesis arrives at the conclusion that the Church of the 6th to 10th century didn't use the motifs of various monsters on purpose. On the contrary, it seems that Germanic and Christian elements freely converged, and that Christian elements eventually substituted the Germanic ones.

Klíčová slova (anglicky)

Monsters, British Isles, Medieval Church, Preaching, Christianization, Imagination, Northern myths, Exempla