

Abstract

The aim of this work is to examine the pastoral theme in literature, including its origin, the main characteristics, and its transformation from ancient times until the Renaissance, with particular focus on the author's originality, cultural environment, and social progress. This work is divided into five chapters and the conclusion. The second chapter deals with the origin of this genre and analyses idyllic poetry of the Greek poet Theokritos and his Roman follower Vergilius who introduced the pastoral tradition in literature. The third chapter focuses on the persistence of this tradition during the Middle Ages, and the manner in which the theme was incorporated into Christian literature. The Boccaccio's stories of nymphes and shepherds will be analysed. The fourth chapter explores the arrival of humanism and introduces the figure of Lorenzo de'Medici whose pastoral compositions carry on the tradition of mythic Arcadia wherein the shepherds suffer repeatedly the anguish of unhappy love. The popularity of this genre exceeds the limits of humanism and impacts the renaissance poets as well. The fifth chapter presents the life and work of Jacopo Sannazaro. The sixth chapter is dedicated to the analysis of Sannazaro's pastoral novel Arcadia. The conclusion compares the influence of ancient literature and tradition of pastoral theme with the original approach of the authors of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Keywords: Ancient history, mythology, idyllic poetry, Theokritos, pastoral poetry, Vergilius, Ovidius, Middle Ages, Ideal landscape, love and beauty, allegory, Giovanni Boccaccio, humanism, Lorenzo de'Medici, Jacopo Sannazaro, Arcadia.