

Abstract

This thesis is focused on the decadent form of Czech symbolist literature at the turn of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The main task is to present a complex catalogue of motifs and images used by Czech decadents in their works and also to analyse the main methods and strategies they used – in particular interstuality, also connected with the decadent effort to capture the uniqueness of each passing moment, and synaesthesia. The thesis also focuses on the radical individualism of decadent authors and its connection with both the motifs used and the symbolist style in itself – in the form of self-stylization of the decadent authors who tend to identify with their own works and become (even in real life) their own literal subjects. Because of the prominent visual aspect of decadent literature, the thesis also takes into consideration contemporary art works and the relations between words and images.