

The dissertation thesis deals with distinct semantic levels of the theme of death and dying in a large context of Czech poetry and prose-fiction of the 20th century.

In the first two chapters, the approach is supposed to cover broader interpretations of the treatment of death and dying based on philosophical, psychological, medical, ethic, and spiritual background.

Due to the large range of the material, just essential frames of the attitudes towards dying are outlined, focusing on European medieval context and older texts of Czech literature.

Philosophical background focuses on texts of selected writers who influenced Czech literature of the 20th century and/or were explicitly or implicitly reflected in it.

The image of death and dying in Czech literature of the 20th century is analyzed in chapters that are based on periodisation that reflects substantial changes in the perception of death and in the ways of its verbal visualization in literature.

The classification of texts is divided into five types based on the differences of the images of death in the composition of distinct literary texts.

The first group has the specificities of texts of poetry and prose-fiction of catholic background: the authors, facing the secularization of the world in the first third of the 20th century, have to reflect the changes of the spiritual climate and sets of values, trying to stress the transcendental dimensions of a human life. The second group includes Czech poetry of the 1930s with its strong reflection of the tragic sense of life.

The third group of texts puts together the balladic and psychological prose-fiction since the beginnings of the 1930s. Their interpretation focuses on the literary protagonists relating to the categories of good and evil and the innermost experiencing of the final steps of human existence. ...