

The thesis deals with female characters of selected Berlin novels by Theodor Fontane and Prague novels by Ignát Herrmann. By the way of analysis and interpretation of individual works the thesis shows the two notions of woman, her traditional roles and position in the patriarchal society of the last third of the nineteenth century. The work seeks causes of the dominance of female characters in novels. It presents their possible typology and on the basis of comparison and confrontation demonstrates their common and different features. Family relationships and relationships of couples are described as well as various attitudes to love, various motivations for marriage, causes and consequences of dysfunctional marriages. There is also analysis of the ways of artistic depiction of topics which represented social taboo, and of the creative techniques that are specific for the two writers. Another part of the work is an outline of the contemporary social atmosphere with emphasis on the prevailing convention, as well as a comparative exposition about the lives and works of the authors and an attempt to give a true picture of the particularity of their prose. The last part of the work is a substantiation of the perception of women as victims of their environment.