

Abstract

The thesis *Prayer as a literary genre and its realization in contemporary Czech poetry* deals with the question of prayer as a literary genre in poetry and then whether and how this genre is realized in contemporary Czech lyric poetry. This leads to two main focuses of this thesis. The first is theoretical research in the field of literary genres and the second is its application to specific poems. The first part deals primarily with various definitions of prayer as a literary genre in Czech and foreign literature. On the basis of their critical reflection, the thesis then goes on to discuss several key points in the study of prayer in literature, in order to present an attempt to define prayer as a literary genre itself, which divides it into a scale of four points, two of which are particularly relevant to literary scholarship (prayer in the narrower sense based on formal relatedness to the religious pattern; prayer in a broader sense based on addressing a sacred entity) and two more peripheral (prayer as a primarily religious act and a genre of church literature; a theological conception that sees all poetry as prayer). The second part of the thesis deals with specific examples of poems-prayers in collections of Czech lyric poetry published after 2010. First, three more extensive interpretations of poems by Ivan M. Jirous, Miloš Doležal and Ondřej Hanus are included, and then a more extensive view is presented, which allows the third chapter to summarize the most important genre tendencies of the genre of prayer in contemporary Czech poetry.

Keywords

prayer, literary genres, contemporary literature, Czech poetry