

The diploma thesis *An Analysis of Erben's Bouquet within the Context of Feminist Literary Theories* is the first study within Czech literary criticism dedicated to this canonical collection of poetry that has been carried out from a gender perspective. In its analysis of the gender aspects contained in Erben's collection, the thesis mostly draws on methods introduced by Anglo-American feminist literary criticism during the seventh and eighth decades of the 20th century. The thesis then touches upon the potentials of poststructuralist theory for addressing gender analyses of this particular collection of poetry. Fetterley's resistant reading and reader response criticism that investigate the relationship between readers – female readers particularly – and literature, especially within the broad context of both the patriarchal society based on hierarchical gender organization and the specificities of women's lived experience, are the major methodological and theoretical points of departure of the thesis. The author of the thesis positions herself in an opposition towards the existing interpretations of Erben's poems that permeate the theoretical works of major literary critics which she sees as based on unreflected reproduction of gender stereotypes. The author seeks to subvert misogynist representations of femininity propagated both by Erben's collection and the literary criticism focused on the poet's work. Moreover, the thesis argues for politically engaged feminist literary criticism that employs gender as an analytical tool and which views literature as a means of social change directed at gender equality.

Keywords: *A Bouquet of National Legends* by Karel Jaromír Erben; feminist literary criticism; resistant reading; reader response criticism; patriarchal representations of femininity.