Abstract

The thesis focuses on J. K. Šlejhar’s literary work from two points of view. The first part introduces Šlejhar’s work in the contemporary literary context as a result of a synthesis of new literary styles. In the second part the thesis concentrates on a textual analysis and reconstruction of the author’s „artistic world“.

The first part of the thesis gives insight into the contemporary discussions aimed at revising and redefining the function of art with respect to the new development in society and new human needs. The critical reception of realism and naturalism and the reflection of the then wide-spread adoption of new influences from foreign literatures are also discussed. To draw a comparison, we quote both period and current studies dealing with J. K. Šlejhar’s work. Thereby we want to demonstrate the changing requirements of literature and art and the changing perception of a literary work throughout time.

The second part of the thesis comprises the textual analysis of Šlejhar’s selected writings from the point of view of semiotic literary theory and the reconstruction of the author’s „artistic world“. Such approach enables us to draw comparisons to Russian literature of the 19th century, primarily with the works of N. V. Gogol and F. M. Dostoyevsky, and to discover a common basis for both their creation of a specific artistic world and their conception of spirituality.

**Key words**: naturalism, symbolism, realism, artistic world, spirituality, form, the ornament, aesthetic, death.