

ABSTRACT (English)
Ph.D. Thesis

**Contemporary Legend and Rumour in the Czech Republic.
Origin, Genesis and Social and Cultural Function
of Domestic Urban Folklore in International Context**

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Presented study analyzes character, origin, genesis and social and cultural functions of specific type of prosaic oral narratives transmitted in contemporary oral and non-oral tradition on territory of the Czech Republic.

Main attention is given to realistic narratives with primary informative and entertaining function, which are usually presented by their tellers as at least potentially real story or information about actual, genuine happenings of both local and social importance, but whose variants, versions and editions simultaneously circulate over wider geographical and temporary horizon. Because of that, these narratives are labelled by international folkloristics as folklore genres of „contemporary legend“ and „rumour“.

After overview and critical analysis of history of international studies of these two genre concepts, their terminology and genre (both formal and thematic) characteristics in international and Czech folkloristics are presented, as well as relationship of these genres to similar contemporary folklore forms, especially gossip, conspiracy theories, anecdotes and jokes, demonological legends, and children's prosaic folklore. Next, attention is given to social and cultural function of contemporary legends and rumours, including their connection to manifestations of contemporary popular, medial and artificial culture.

Final part of the study is based on analysis of Czech folklore material of 668 texts, collected during long-term folkloristic fieldwork made by the author in 2004-2011 and published in three monographical commented editions, which tries to apply abovementioned issues to these specific local folklore narratives. Collected contemporary legends and rumours are analyzed in three case studies based on their most prominent themes and motives, and incorporated to updated typological thematic catalogue by American folklorist Jan Harold Brunvand. The main outlines of both their potential local specific features and their connection to foreign, international and global folklore repertoire are thus presented and interpreted.

key words:

literary folkloristics; prosaic folklore; contemporary folklore; contemporary legend; rumour