

Abstract

This master's thesis analyses the influence of female characters on male characters in the work of P. Corneille, partly in relation to the evolution of Doubrovsky's cornelian heroism, whose theory it extends. The research concerns the plays *Mélite*, *Médée* and *The Cid*. The definition of the female influence continues through characterizing female characters in their relationship with male characters. Concerning the male characters, the thesis shows the female effect and the males' reactions to it. Here we can see the first traits of cornelian heroism. The female characters cause the male characters to suffer. The first reason for this is the desire of the male characters. The second reason lies in the overall weakness or, paradoxically, in the strength of their character. The male characters also have something else in common – a desire for revenge. A woman weakens the male hero, making him a slave to her will. So, the hero learns how to repel her strength. In the end, only his heroic ambitions influence him. The woman then only motivates him. The plays *Mélite* and *Médée* have not been translated into Czech yet. Therefore, this thesis extends the Czech reader's general knowledge and opens up new possibilities to approaching Corneille's work.