

Abstract

The master thesis *Helimadoe and Petrolejové lampy: A Gender Analysis of Jaroslav Havlíček's Novels* examines selected texts and conveys gender-focused interpretations. The analysis of both of Havlíček's novels is carried out within the context of feminist literary theories. The main methodological and theoretical foundations of the thesis are „resisting reading“ as introduced by Judith Fetterly and Jonathan Culler's „reading as a woman“. Since the thesis is also a qualitative sociological analysis, it uses the processes of discourse analysis as well.

The text focuses on the issue of power relations and their gender dimension, on the construction of gender and gender identity of individual female and male characters, on their sexuality, on their gendered activities and on the description and interpretation of the environment that the literary characters inhabit. A special attention is primarily (but not only) paid to main female characters and their revolt against the patriarchal system of the society. In relation to this problem the thesis necessarily deals with the topic of the gender social order and it shows what influence this order has along with other factors on the lives of individual characters.

Key words: feminist criticism, resisting reading, Jaroslav Havlíček, Helimadoe, Petrolejové lampy, gender norms, female characters