

Thesis abstract

The aim of this thesis is to provide a detailed topical analysis of the poems written by Du Fu during the first half of his Sichuan period (760 – 762), traditionally considered to be one of the happiest periods of his life. In these poems the themes of everyday experiences of poet's life in the country-side including his view of himself are highly remarkable. Based on the analysis we attempt to capture author's specific world view in this very period of his life, to examine how far these poems are idyllic, and to identify the function of individual motifs in the poems. The first part of this work contains a brief introduction to the context of Du Fu's life and work. The second, analytic part, introduced by a chapter discussing Du Fu's Sichuan period in more detail, is divided into four major sections – everyday life, social contacts, poet's view of himself, and motif of alcohol. In subdivisions of these sections the use of individual motifs is examined and exemplified always in one or two whole poems and fragments of other ones. All the examples of poems presented include a working translation into Slovak language. The conclusion of this work is that although the secondary sources are right to say that plenty of Du Fu's poems from this period are idyllic in nature, there is also evidence to be found in many of the poems labelled as idyllic that author is actually suppressing his true feelings and provides a stylised image of his life and himself.