

Abstract

This master's thesis, titled "*Space as a Meaning-Making Factor in Children's and Young Adult Literature*", concentrates on building and projection of literary space in the literature specifically intended for children and young adults. It has literary analytical and literary interpretive character and is based on theoretical works on the topic of literary space. This thesis is divided into two parts. The first part covers the theoretical conception of literary space. The second part consists of examinations of literary works, first of the world's classics of children's and young adult literature (*The Brothers Lionheart* by Astrid Lindgren, *The Neverending Story* by Michael Ende, *Through a Glass, Darkly* by Jostein Gaarder) and then of the works of contemporary Czech children's and young adult literature *Lenka a Nelka neboli AHA* ('Lenka and Nelka or AHA') by Daniela Fischer, *Spící město, Spící spravedlnost a Spící tajemství* ('Sleeping City', 'Sleeping Justice', and 'Sleeping Secret') by Martin Vopěnka and *Soví zpěv* ('Owl's Song') by Iva Procházková.

In the theoretical part, the conception of literary space is defined from the perspective of literary topology. The definition of this concept is based on literary studies on the topic of literary topology, mainly on the essays *Místa s Tajemstvím* ('Places with Secrets') by Daniela Hodrová, *The Poetics of Space* and *The Poetics of Reverie* by Gaston Bachelard, *Prostory, místa a jejich konfigurace v literárním díle* in *Na cestě ke smyslu* ('Spaces, Places, and Their Configurations' in literary work in the book 'On the Path to Sense') and on the publication *Poetika míst: kapitoly z literární tematologie* ('The Poetics of Places: Chapters from literary thematology') by collective of authors. Important places which occur in the examined work are selected and analyzed.

Literary works of both world and Czech children's and young adults literature are selected with respect to their topic and to the literary space the author chose to convey the topic. The authors of the examined works choose unreal literary space to depict serious and complicated topics regarding human life, and to ask ethical and philosophical questions. This master's thesis concentrates on particular places depicted in the examined works and on the interpretation of their meanings considering mainly the perception of the text by a young reader.