

Abstract (in English):

The aim of the thesis is to study the ideal of beauty in the period of Romanticism. The study is based on a close analysis of one of the crucial texts of the Romantic period – the *Lyrical Ballads* written by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The thesis is concerned with the vision of the beautiful in relation to the aesthetics of the sublime. It focuses on the development of what was perceived as beautiful in the periods preceding Romanticism and how this vision changed for the Romantics. The question is what is the ideal of beauty in the period of Romanticism and how it is presented in the *Lyrical Ballads*? Is there a common ideal for Wordsworth and Coleridge, or do they differ in their notion of the beautiful?

The main focus of the thesis is the discrepancy between the beautiful, on one hand, and the sublime or the grotesque, on the other, both in perceiving the nature and human beings. The Romantics have several similar features as well as the vision of the beautiful, whether they praise women or men or nature, whether they deal with the beauty inside or the surface. Similarities between those are considered as well. The reflexion of aesthetics of the beautiful and the sublime is drawn primarily from Edmund Burke's *The Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*, however, other philosophers who impacted on the Romantic vision of the beautiful and the sublime are considered as well.

The thesis is divided into five separate parts. The first introductory chapter deals with the development of the aesthetics and the changing idea of the beautiful and the sublime as far as and including the Romantic period. The second chapter examines the Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* and the beautiful as presented there. The analysis of the text is based on Burke's theory and reading of M.H.Abrams's *The Mirror and the Lamp*. The chapter is subdivided into four main points of the Preface – the subject-matter, the language and style of poetry, the poet, and the audience. In the third chapter there is the analysis of Wordsworth's poems in terms of the beautiful and the sublime according to Burke's ideas and Wordsworth's own views. It is subdivided in relation to the subject-matter of those poems, such as natural poetry or motherhood. Coleridge's contributions to the volume are the subject of the fourth chapter. His theory and poems are examined in relation to Wordsworth, Coleridge's theory and the vision of the beautiful and the sublime presented in those poems. The results are manifested in the conclusion to the thesis.