

Abstract in English

The aim of this thesis is to interpret and categorize the lesser known novel *Thaddeus of Warsaw* by the Scottish author Jane Porter. The novel is characterised by the use of several genre conventions – most importantly those commonly found in the conservative anti-jacobin novel or national tale, historical novel and novel of sensibility. Porter's novel is interpreted from all three perspectives and also compared to other relevant novels from roughly the same period: *Self-Control* by Mary Brunton, *The Old English Baron* by Clary Reeve and *The Wild Irish Girl* by Lady Morgan. The comparison aims at the contextualization of *Thaddeus of Warsaw* and the observation of similarities and differences in the approach to certain themes or motives. The most important motives is that of a trial that shows the character of the protagonist in action, continuity, universality and even a certain parabolic nature of history, an emphasis on virtue and the use of sentimental conventions to portray the emotions of characters. This analysis is preceded by an interpretation of two authorial prefaces. The new one (from 1831) claims that the work it comments on is a historical novel published even before Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley*, usually considered the first historical novel. The older preface published alongside the novel in 1803 however characterizes Porter as a conservative, anti-jacobin author. This discrepancy between both prefaces and the main text of the novel formed an impulse for the analysis in the thesis.