

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the character named *Golem* and its possible interpretations. The first chapter is aimed generally at artificial creations, a category *Golem* is often reckoned as a part of. Second chapter deals with the origin and the meaning of the word *Golem*. This chapter also lists down *Golem's* attributes and instructions for its creation. The following two chapters describe the typical concept of *Golem* as well as the archetype of a shadow and the motif of a double. C.G. Jung was dealing with the archetype of a shadow in detail while the issue of a double is based on the works by O. Fisher and D. Hoder. The fifth chapter is dedicated to the Prague Golem and its author Rabbi Löw. In addition to Czech legends, German ones are also included, namely the book *Sippurim* that served as a source of information used by many authors who had been influenced by the *Golem* theme. Following chapters analyse particular works of German literature. First it is the poem *Die Geschichte von dem Golem* by Ludwig Kalisch. Here, the theme of *Golem* is elaborated in a lyrical way. An analysis of A. von Arnim's work named *Isabella von Ägypten* comes next. This work tells a story of *Golem's* wife who is a double of the main character Bella. In addition to these two works, an interpretation of the story called *Der Sandmann* by E. T. A. Hoffmann is included. In this story, all of the following characters are found: *Golem*, Olympia – a wooden marionette, the motif of a double – advocate Coppelius and the barometer seller Coppola. The last work, deserving the most attention, is a novel by G. Meyrink *Der Golem*. In this novel, *Golem* is the shadow and the double of the main character named Athanasius Perthnath. In some ways, the *golems* by the Germans authors are similar. On the other hand, they are also quite different, each of them being somehow unique. This is the same with the legends, each of them having many variations. The comparison of the legends and selected works of German literature makes up the last chapter.

KEYWORDS

golem, shadow, double, *Sippurim*, the Golem of Prague, rabbi Löw, Gustav Meyrink, A. von Arnim, E. T. A. Hoffmann, interpretation, German literature