

ABSTRACT

This master's thesis concerns itself with the motive of "despair" in contemporary Czech drama. It includes an analysis of selected plays written after 2000 by leading Czech authors belonging to the middle generation (Petr Zelenka; David Drábek; Jiří Pokorný; Petr Kolečko; Tomáš Svoboda; Lenka Lagronová; Iva Klestilová, born Volánková). The aim of the thesis is to analyze these dramas, to define characteristic elements and to determine whether we can identify a clear "desperate people" motive within their characters, deeming it a characteristic feature of contemporary Czech drama written by the middle generation. Using a comparative method we explore typical repetitive motives of the characters – anti-heroes, which suffer from having an unfulfilled personal life, a feeling of loneliness or a midlife crisis. The master's thesis describes the causes and manifestations of despair of the characters, as well as the solutions the dramas offer to the bleak situation (insanity, suicide, miracle).

KEYWORDS

contemporary Czech drama, motive of „losers“, in-yer-face theatre, Petr Zelenka, David Drábek, Jiří Pokorný, Petr Kolečko, Tomáš Svoboda, Lenka Lagronová, Iva Klestilová (Volánková)