

The thesis presents an analysis of the image of the “Prague Spring” and the year 1968 in Czech literature of the 2nd half of the 20th century. It focuses on the issue of emblematic reduction which occurs in the representation of the social situation in 1968, and analyzes the emblems which participate in the construction of the literary image of the Prague Spring in particular texts.

The first part focuses on texts of the official literature of 1970s and 1980s, which attempt to create an image of the Prague Spring as a period of crisis in accordance with the conclusions of the document Poučení z krizového vývoje ve straně a společnosti po 13. sjezdu KSC (Lesson drawn from the crisis development in the Party and Society after the 13th Congress of the C.P.Cz.), as well as the contemporary requirements of socialist literature. In these texts the principle of emblematic reduction proves to be abundantly applied, in full concordance with the idea that simple notions and stereotypes guarantee unambiguous reading and add the necessary cogency. The emblems, based on the main ideological pillars of the normalization period (the principle of the class struggle, the cult of work and family etc.) and thus having fixed meanings at the time, play a vital role in the representation of characters, milieu and the situation in general and participate in the creation of a lucid and clearly ideologically oriented image of the Prague Spring.

The second part deals with texts of the literature written in exile or unpublished, both artistic prose and memoirs, present images of the Prague Spring and the year 1968 that are not only artistically but also ideologically differentiated. They include less emblematic reduction and use emblems for various purposes and in manifold ways. (...)