

The thesis deals with literary production of Vítězslav Hálek – namely his rural short stories. I have tried to observe evolution of both the writer and his work in two creative periods of his life: 1857 – 1863 and 1871 – 1874. I am focusing on comparison of the stories written in two productive stages of Vítězslav Hálek, searching for both common features and the differences. I pay special attention to images of natural scenery, their function in the storyline and the importance of nature in human life. In Hálek's approach, nature is ruled by essential laws which should be abided and respected by people. Therefore the main part of my thesis is concerned with individual images of nature laws and their comparison with the laws applicable in human society. Additionally, I take account of Hálek's career as well as his literary production, which has been listed in the record. Hálek read well in all his life, he was considered popular and recognised author, however, some of his stories are hard to find these days. There do not even exist contemporary belles-lettres on Vítězslav Hálek. My study is based primarily on Hálek's correspondence, small biographic essays and, lastly, on analysis of narrative texts. In the last chapter I derive from selected texts of secondary-school-anthologies.