

Abstract

The main aim of this thesis is to explore the birth, the use and the disappearance of national stereotypes on the example of Czechs in the 19th century, focusing on the formation of Czech national autostereotypes. To this end, it utilizes a combination of classical study of literature dealing with said subject and with use of caricature. In the first chapter of the thesis basic terms such as the nation, the stereotype and the national stereotype are defined with the help of sociological knowledge mainly. Then the relation between autostereotypes and heterostereotypes is described. The first chapter thereby constitutes a theoretical framework for the whole thesis. The second chapter deals with Czech national stereotypes in the 19th century and is further divided in two parts. In the first part the history of Czech national movement is briefly introduced. Then the national stereotypes based on historical myths are examined, the main subjects being the relationship to the Catholic Church and Protestantism (especially the Hussites), the rejection of aristocracy, the sacralisation of plebeianism and the heterostereotypes about Germans, Slavs and the Habsburg monarchy. The second part focuses on the use of national stereotypes in the tense 1890s from the point of view of the Young Czech Party, the Progressive Party and Social Democrats.