

ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on the two broad areas of theory and history of Czech verse, rhyme and stanza. The first part of the study is dedicated to the rhyme. It contains a historical and terminological introduction and a comprehensive description and interpretation of principles of rhyme in Czech accentual-syllabic verse (19th century). The characterization of the principles of rhyme in other versification systems (syllabic verse, quantitative verse) and in free verse is allocated in the separate sections. Methodologically, the first part is based on the tradition of Czech structuralism. The second part, dedicated to the stanza, brings a similarly conceived interpretation of stanzaic forms in the Czech syllabic and accentual-syllabic verse. Given the absence of Czech tradition, the second part is methodologically inspired by French metrics. In addition to terminological and methodological apparatus the second part includes an inventory of basic stanzaic forms in the Czech verse and its analysis. A separate section within the second part is devoted to the small group of quantitative stanzas employed in Czech verse. The third part contains three case studies on rhyme and stanzaic forms in the Czech poetry of the second half of the 19th century, with special attention to the poetic work of Jan Neruda. The case studies deal with (1) the general trends in the use of rhyme in the poetry of Máj group, (2) with the rhythmic aspect of Neruda's rhyme and (3) with the stanzaic forms in the poetry of Jan Neruda.

Key words: theory of verse – rhyme – stanza – Máj group – Neruda, Jan