

## **Abstract in English:**

**Keywords:** literary analysis, imagology, Czech migrant writers, Dutch literature, Jana Beranová, Jan Stavinoha

The diploma thesis aims to explore the portrayal of Czech characters and the Czechoslovakia in Dutch-language works written by authors of Czech origin, namely in selected novels by Jana Beranová and Jan Stavinoha. The principal research questions are:

1. What motifs typical of migrant literature might be identified in the analysed novels?
2. How are the Czech characters portrayed?
3. How is the Czechoslovakia portrayed? Is the portrayal of the country of origin contrasted with that of the country of arrival, i.e. the Netherlands?

The theoretical framework of the diploma thesis focuses on Dutch migrant literature and socio-political environment in Czechoslovakia from 1945 until present. The method used in the thesis is based on imagology and structural analysis. The practical part provides an analysis of the novels *Nu delen we een geheim* (1992) by Jana Beranová and *In goede handen* (1984) by Jan Stavinoha.

As the analysis illustrates, the two novels include features of migrant literature as described in critical sources, such as the depiction of oppression in one's homeland, the life between two cultures and the difficulty of overcoming the language barrier. Other features of migrant literature, such as an idealized portrayal of Western Europe, the hostility of the new country, and the marginalization of the Czech refugees, are not found in the analysed works.

The Czech characters are reduced to mere political refugees and they go through phases that are typical of emigration – the ties with the country of origin are broken which results in the feeling of isolation and abandonment. In the last phase, however, the Netherlands ultimately becomes the new homeland for the refugees.

Czechoslovakia as a communist country is in sharp contrast with the democratic Netherlands. The country of origin is symbolised mainly by historical monuments, and also by Czech traditions and eating habits to which much focus is given in both analysed novels.