

Abstract

The subject of this diploma thesis is gender analysis of the main female characters in Božena Němcová's *The Grandmother*. *The Grandmother*, as a literary work that occupies an important place in Czech literary canon, was not examined from a gender perspective in Czech literature until this time. In this thesis I focused on the main female characters who play very important role and to whom is given wide space in the story. During analyzing the literary characters I worked with the selected feminist theories that I introduce in detail in theoretical and methodological part. This part is also dedicated to theoretical and methodological resources that I use in this thesis, particularly to women's reading and archetypal theories. This thesis is being examined from receptionist reader's view. I focus here primarily on presence of gender stereotypes, reproduction of values and norms of patriarchal system, and I also focus on presence of feminine archetypes that can be read from description of female characters. The object of this diploma thesis is evaluate the extent to which the book reproduce and further strengthen gender stereotypes, to what extent the main female characters internalize with gender structure of society or whether they act subversively and undermine the system.

Keywords: *The Grandmother*, Božena Němcová, gender analysis, women's reading, archetypes