

Keywords

“Long” 18th century; 18th century; Baroque; Enlightenment; Czech National Revival; history of Czech language; development of Czech language; Czech language in the Baroque period; Czech language in the times of the Czech National Revival; Czech language in the “long” 18th century; manuscript; scribe’s usage; cultural Czech language; books of historiographic records; historiography; “folk chronicles”; gramatography; grammar books; Baroque stylistics; Baroque rhetoric; history of spelling; development of spelling; history of phonetics; development of phonetics; history of morphology; development of morphology; development of the lexis; Chlumec nad Cidlinou; Kutná Hora; Milčice; Nové Strašecí; Pelhřimov; Roudnice nad Labem; František Šolc; Vojtěch Kegler; František Jan Vavák; Filip Ignác Dremsa; Antonín Štěpán; Vojtěch Jílek; Václav Preinhelster.

Abstract

The traditional view describing Czech literary works written in the period from the late 17th century to the end of 18th century as signs of decline in the level of Czech language and literature has been successfully overcome by linguists over the past few decades. However, most papers covering the topic were focused on prints; handwritten sources are being analysed marginally and unsystematically. The aim of this dissertation is to provide a more detailed picture of the language used in original handwritten works from the “long” 18th century.

To meet the set objectives, the following seven handwritten books of historiographical notes have been selected for close analysis: *Některé památky* written by František Šolc in the period from 1726 to 1736, the first volume of *Paměti některé* written by Vojtěch Kegler in the middle of the 18th century, the first volume of *Spisy pamětní* written by František Jan Vavák between 1770 and 1783, *Paměti* by Antonín Štěpán from the last quarter of the 18th century, *Knihy pamětní* written by Vojtěch Jílek in the 1780's, *Knížka pamětní* written by Filip Ignác Dremsa in the period from 1787 to 1809 and *Novostrážská kronika* by Václav Preinhelster written between 1801 and 1834.

The research targeted specific linguistic phenomena considered typical for the so called “Baroque Czech language” at the spelling, phonetics, morphology and lexis levels. The results of the analysis have been construed in the context of contemporary linguistic and extralinguistic facts, especially pieces of grammatical, lexical and rhetorical advice, considering also the situation of the educational system, the book market and the handwriting culture.

Contrasting the gained data to the results of the quantitative analysis of various sources from the 17th and 18th centuries has led to the conclusion that the authors of the examined handwritten works usually followed contemporary views on written language usage, which allowed writers to use alternative variants of linguistic units along with their dominating forms. The application of such an “unstable” form of the cultural Czech language in the individual books of historiography records largely depends on the education of the scribe, the intended purpose of the text and other external factors.