

Abstract

The bachelor thesis focuses on the reflections of holocaust in contemporary Czech literature for children as a set of representations of the Czech Holocaust memory adapted specifically for a child audience.

In the first chapter the thesis presents its methodological background within the field of memory studies and literary science. In particular, Gil Eyal's concept of the will to memory, whose four dimensions – the command to remember, mnemonic substance, mnemonic operations, and the function of memory – inspired the selection of chapter contents.

Drawing on interviews and the authors' websites, the second chapter presents the personalities, goals, and motivations of those who implement the command to remember. In addition to the author of each work, it also traces the work of the participating illustrator. It also identifies the two significant mechanisms that influence the width of the reception of the emerging representations of the Holocaust.

The third chapter introduces, following Eyal's concept, the content of works on the Holocaust for children, which relates to the reality of the subject matter – historical personalities and events. In addition, it identifies some established motifs and themes in the corpus of works.

The fourth chapter examines the methods of handling the previously selected contents regarding the presence of the factor of the implicit child reader. Attention is drawn to four different means of making the material accessible to a child audience – the medium, the author's handling of sources and specialist literature, the juxtaposition of the readerly present and the fictional present and past, the child character in literature and the specifics of her perspective.

In relation to the fourth dimension of the will to memory, the fifth chapter also examines the function of emergent representations of the Holocaust for child readers and Czech society. It turns out that the selected works thematizing the Holocaust are not always only about historiographically based interpretations of the past.

Key words: holocaust, children's literature, history education, historical fiction, memory studies, cultural trauma