

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the transformation of the literary environment and the societal position of the author after 1989. Before the revolution, official writers held a special societal status, being regarded as authorities representing desirable norms and values. With the beginning of democracy and a free market, came a drastic change, as they became commercial entities facing new challenges.

Before the revolution, there were several parallel book markets (official, samizdat, and exile) with their own characteristics and limitations. The Velvet Revolution and subsequent changes in the economic environment opened the way for the unification of these markets into one, providing authors with broader publishing opportunities.

Changes in the political climate removed censorship and opened up discussions on historical and personal topics. Writers found themselves in a new economic environment, where they lost state financial support and had to rely on the sales of their books. This new reality influenced not only their incomes but also their societal standing.

The second part of the thesis focuses on the analysis of interviews with Jáchym Topol, a representative figure of this transformation.

Keywords:

1989, Book Market, Velvet Revolution, Authors, Writers, 90s, Free Market, Censorship, Jáchym Topol