

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the significance of the counterfactual historical narrative in Jáchym Topol's novel *Gargling with Tar* and the elements that make it qualified as a postmodernist fiction. It presents the genre of counterfactual historical fiction and the postmodernist conception of the relation between fiction and history. Via narrative analysis, it traces the strategies of the novel's semantic construction (events, characters, narrator, space-time, authentication strategies), from which it deduces the novel's thematic orientation. The narrator and the narration of the other characters appear to be the key elements in the construction of the text, producing a multilevel relativisation of the information presented to the reader. The most significant themes of the novel are the impossibility of getting to know the objective truth and the ironisation of the Czech nation and history. In the final interpretation, we return to the issue of fiction and history in the postmodern period and its connection to the semantic construction of the novel *Gargling with Tar*. We affirm that this novel follows the postmodernist tendencies not only by using the typical narrative strategies of postmodernist fiction, but also by reacting to the essential issues of postmodernist discourse.