

Modern Czech literature as a test field of conversation studies

Conversation. Conduct manuals. Modern Czech literature.

The article is divided into three parts. In part I, the author describes the contemporary situation of conversation studies within cultural studies, with a special focus on the Slavic literatures. In part II, he analyzes the historical development of conduct manuals in Bohemia from the second half of the 19th century until the end of the first Czechoslovak Republic in 1938. In that period, this kind of motivation literature seemed to possess an immense importance for the cultivation of social behavior within the national community. In part III, he shows some affinities but also frictions between the “spirit” of the conduct manuals and the literary production of the first Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1938), and he sketches the possibilities of approaching the informal dialogues in some works of Czech literature after World War II, as well.

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