

This master thesis deals with a so far not explored area - a detailed analysis of the Czech theatre review criticism under the totalitarian communistic regime. The criticism in the magazine "Divadlo" (1949 - 1970), the main theatre periodical in the fifties (from 1957 together with "Divadelní noviny" ("The Theatre Newspaper")) has been chosen as a sample. The analysis focuses on the year 1953 when the Soviet dictator J. V. Stalin and the Czech president Klement Gottwald died and that is why this year is generally identified with the first liberalization in Czechoslovakia as well as in the other Sovietized states. The aim of the master thesis was not only to precisely describe the reviews, but also to find out, whether they changed after these fundamental events in the political and social development.

The essay consists of two basic parts: the first one handles the historical context, both the social and in the area of theatre, resumes the history of the magazine "Divadlo" and shortly describes the theory and history of social realism until 1953. The second part focuses on the detailed qualitative analysis of the texts.

The chapters about history show briefly the character of the theatre sphere which hinged on the policy of the state and the Communist Party. The magazine "Divadlo" was created one year after the coup d'état in February 1948, when the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia overtook the power. Shortly after that, the organization of theatre life was transformed in order to serve the intentions of the leading party. Theatre became one of the main tools of propaganda, it should have been the "school of the nation". The totalitarian regime also reorganized theatre periodicals. In 1950, all the existing magazines except "Divadlo" were canceled and all interest was concentrated on this one which was led by prominent theatre artists of the regime such as Miroslav Kouřil and Jindřich Honzl.