

THESES FOR THE DOCTORAL (PHD) DISSERTATION

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*The representation of Czechoslovak legions in  
Slovak literature*

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## **I. Introduction**

Since the establishment of Czechoslovakia and the establishment and operation of the Czechoslovak legions exactly 100 years has passed. The Czechoslovak legions are one of the most important parts of history. Without them Czechoslovakia would not exist in 1918. Legions were created in several countries during the First World War - in Russia, Italy and France. The Legion was practically in combat with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The Slovak legions fought to free the territory of today's Slovakia and to create a new state together with the Czech nation. In the research of the legions, however, we have to divide the Czech Republic and Slovakia into two, as the legion ideals are still alive today, and the whole country knows the activities of the legions as well as countless monuments preserving their names. In contrast, people in today's Slovakia know only something about the legions, not to mention the legionary literature. This led me to start dealing with the legionary literature.

At the start of the research, I knew only a few basic works and I found out more during my research in libraries and archives. I also divided the legionnaires into two groups. The first group included Jesenský Janko and Tajovský Jozef Gregor who were members of the classical Slovak literary canon before joining the legions. Members of the second group - Mikuláš Gacek, Mikolaj Jozef and Klempa Jozef - are almost unknown to today's average Slovak reader. During the research, I found very little literature of the Slovak legionary

literature. These sources were mainly studies and newspaper articles. It can almost be said that there is no such summary of work that would contain the entire Slovak literature in the region. The research had its antecedents, but it can be said that I had to face the lack of resources. The problem-orientation of the dissertation focused on how to create a complex work that would include the entire Slovak legionary literature.

## **II. Methodology**

In the absence of resources, I felt that it was not enough to analyze the basics only, but also to describe the work of the individual authors during the war, as well as to describe the works that these authors wrote during the war, but which practically do not belong to the legionary literature. I also considered it necessary to study a legionary journal published in several parts of Russia, as these authors published several articles in these journals. So I did not write only an essay-based study, but I tried to summarize this complex area with different methodologies and approaches. The knowledge of the historical background was indispensable in the research as the literature of the legion is based on the authors' activities during the war and on the description of events around them. Therefore, the dissertation is also of a dual nature - literature science and historical research together. Thus, the dissertation is interdisciplinary.

## **III. Findings**

The dissertation is virtually a niche replacement work, as so far there has not been a single literary work in Slovakia that would provide a complex picture of the Slovak legionary literature. First, topics such as Slovak legions and Bolshevism, the Czechoslovak question in the Legionary literature, or the relationship of Slovak legionnaires to Russian culture were being processed.

Several authors of the classical Slovak literary canon appeared in several monographs, so in their case I tried to reveal and detail some of the new aspects of their work during the First World War, for which there were fewer literary sources available. As far as the other authors are concerned, so far only a short biography has been published, so it is necessary to find out all the information about a particular person. During the research I discovered a lot of new information that I tried to add to the paper in details. There has not even been a monograph or study to discuss the views of the legionnaires on questions such as Bolshevism, White Guards or the Czechoslovak question.

#### **IV. List of Publications Related to the Dissertation:**

Jončev Zsolt: A csehszlovák légiós irodalom elfelejtett művei. In: *Magyar Sion*, Új folyam 10. (52.) 2016/1, Egyházi tudományos folyóirat, Esztergom-Pozsony

Recenzió - Klempa Jozef: Moje skúsenosti zo svetovej vojny. In: *Eruditio-Educatio*, 2015/2, Univerzita J. Selyeho, Komárom, ISSN: 1336-8893

Jončev Zsolt: A hadifogság Babits István és a csehszlovák légiósok szemében. In: *Babits és kortársai*. Napkút kiadó, 2015, Budapest, ISBN: 978-963-263-456-2

Jončev Zsolt: Ruské zajatie počas prvej svetovej vojny v dielach slovenských autorov. In: *Eruditio-Educatio*, 2014/2, Univerzita J. Selyeho, Komárom, ISSN: 1336-8893