THE CULTURAL MEANING OF THE BUGARŠČICA IN THE WORKS OF VLADIMIR NAZOR

SUMMARY

The article considers the presence of the bugarščica popular ballad in the literary opus of Vladimir Nazor. Making use of the poetic bugarščica model, Nazor created his own poems. He published them in independent form (Ban Dragonja, Galiotova pesan), but also integrated them into his epic poems (Živana, Utva zlatokrila) and his tales (Veli Jože, Stoimena, Halugica). Nazor’s bugarščica is linked with regret for the past Golden Age of national liberty and well-being (the content-related level), reflects closeness with the ancient land-tilling culture (the social level), contains an awareness of the lack of national maturity (the ethical level), and the linguistic level nurturing the heritage of Croatia’s oldest Čakavian dialect or the Štokavian popular vernacular, while the use of the bugarščica poetic model links Nazor’s work with Croatian oral literary heritage. The bugarščica in the context of Nazor’s work has two cultural dimensions: it appears as a metonymy of the Croatian national spirit and historical beginnings or is linked with the mystic Slavic world (as a cosmogonic poem).

Key words: bugarščica, Nazor, national past, mythological heritage, Secession stylisation, neo-Romanticism