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## Summary

### THE DASH – HOW IT MADE ITS WAY INTO WRITTEN CZECH

This study shows how the dash made its way into the system of Czech written language in the late eighteenth century. The cultural-historical European background is taken into account. The dash first spread in the context of the late Enlightenment as a “rebellious” anti-rhetorical sign. Its origins lie in the English language culture; from the middle of the eighteenth century, it was used more intensively in the German-speaking world and was soon reflected and codified.

The codifying contributions (grammars, textbooks on orthography), however, confined themselves to the more “orderly” uses (in parentheses or aposiopeses) and warned against too frequent use of this sign. They thus contributed to its “taming” – in opposition to wild modes of usage in early German Romanticism.

Apparently under German influence, this sign was also used in the Czech-speaking world, first in opera and theatre (plays translated from German), later also in poetry and prose. The older Czech reflections at the turn of the nineteenth century also reveal a dependence on German approaches (Felbiger and his textbooks, Adelung).

Keywords: the Dash; German orthography; Czech orthography; the Eighteenth century

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