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Summary

AUGUST SCHLEICHER WRITING ABOUT WRITTEN CZECH ("O SPISOVNEJ ČEŠTINĚ", 1849)

The study deals with a pamphlet O spisovnej češtině (On Written Czech, 1849) by August Schleicher. It was written in Czech, shortly after the author himself had learnt Czech. Schleicher suggested reforms to be adopted. He wanted to enrich standard Czech with forms taken from Moravian and Slovak dialects in order to strengthen its inflectional elements and clear morphological distinctions as they can be identified in ancient Indo-European languages. His concept of the reforms follows the idea of the decline of morphology in Indo-European languages. There was no response to his work. The study explains that after the disputes over the reform of Czech orthography (about 1813–1849) and expanding vocabulary, a kind of consensus was reached (thanks to František Palacký as well) that the grammatical basis of literary Czech was solid and should not be changed. The study suggests using the term "modernization" for the rapid development of Czech in the nineteenth century.

Keywords: August Schleicher; Czech; national movement; František Palacký; nineteenth century

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