

Abstract:

The aim of this work is to defend the idea that the work *Fires on the Plain* by Ōoka Shōhei is not only a depiction of war horrors caused by participant's moral degradation and thus an expression of the antimilitaristic attitude, embodied in a warning against repeating similar historical events, the work is more of a rethinking the meaning of human life in the context of events in the book of narratives based on the personal experience of Ōoka himself. By analyzing the motif of repetition, the attempt is to show a plurality of individual existential modes, their characteristics and the desire to overcome them by the main character of the novel, in order to finally reveal the dialectical tension between the natural desire to accept them or rather deny them. By discovering that it is a coincidence that's in control of his own life, the main character is brought to a contemplation, which results in a undecidable question of the spiritual foundation of human life *per se*. In the last part of the thesis, the conclusion is also applied to the self-reflection of Ōoka's own life, or rather the Japanese nation.