

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on dynamics in blended and stepfamilies. The work focuses on relationships between their members and provides a basic insight into its ways of influence on human personality. Theories from evolutionary biology are also introduced, with focus on the issue of parental care and sibling rivalry.

These theories provide inside on possible evolutionary causes and explanations of conflicts between family members. The thesis pursues general characteristic of all family members and its dynamics, including findings of psychologists and confrontates it with results of experimental studies. This work seeks a more comprehensive view of the family system with a focus not only on the relationship between the stepchild and stepparents, but also on the relationship with other family members, such as half-siblings and grandparents.

The results are discussed with focus on how the quality of these relationships influences personality development, marital and partner life of the individual and his learning abilities.

## **Key words**

family, blended family, stepfamily, stepfather, stepmother, stepsiblings, half-siblings, grandparents, parental care, personality, partnership, marriage, sibling rivalry, evolutionary psychology