

## **Abstract**

This thesis will examine motifs appearing in *Kokinwakashū*, a collection of classical poetry from the beginning of the Heian period (the beginning of the 10th century) consisting of 1111 poems, and motifs appearing in contemporary traditional Japanese confectionery, specifically the type made with the purpose to be served during a tea ceremony. This thesis is based on Jan Mukařovský's structuralistic theory of motifs in poetic works. The main focus is set on the first six books of *Kokinwakashū* and the way its poems use motifs for expressing different seasons, their frequency and combinations with each other, following the cultural background of each motif and also the nuances of its meanings in the *Kokinwakashū*. The focus will be the same in contemporary traditional Japanese confectionery, while I provide a comparison of these two artistic media separated by approximately 1100 years. This thesis aims to examine the influence of *Kokinwakashū* motifs, poetic names, and the concept of seasons and its expression in contemporary traditional Japanese sweets while searching for sweets that directly took inspiration from poems appearing in *Kokinwakashū*.