

The study deals with religious elements of sangam poetry and its subsequent changes in the next period. It is divided into two parts – the first part focuses on the literature and religion of the classical period. The second part shows how the literature and religion were influenced by brahmins and what kind of changes it is possible to see after the intensification of their influence. Historical background of the transition between the two periods is described in the chapter about aryanization. In the last chapter the author briefly outlines the transition to the next period – the bhakti period. The thesis was worked out with special reference to secondary literature but especially in the second part there is very important conjunction with the translation of Silappadigaram.