

Yuri Mikhailovich Lotman dealing with culture (both in general sense and seen as art) as a semiotic phenomenon. Culture is regarded as a collection of heterogeneous, often even extremely contradicting phenomena that ever nevertheless organized in a strict hierarchy. With the passage of time these phenomena rearrange in various ways, change their position and disappear only to appear again. The communication between the individual elements is crucial – the very existence of culture depends on it. A conception very closely connected to culture is a conception of text (which does not necessarily have to be verbal), that is, something that needs to be preserved in regard of a certain culture. In the works I've chosen Lotman deals mainly with textual function and relations between texts and culture, texts and their meaning and texts and their recipients from same or different cultures. My thesis also contains a translation commentary, where I explain more complex terms that are difficult to translate and those that Lotman uses in an unusual way, and a foreword focused on the Tartu-Moscow semiotic school with J. M. Lotman as its chief representative. This part of my thesis deals with the conception of culture and text and its transformations.