

Henrik Tikkanen (1924 - 1984) and Christer Kihlman (born 1930) are so called Finland-Swedish writers: they belong to the Swedish minority in Finland and they both write in Swedish. In general they are viewed as authors who describe - and often go into rather intimate details - the "Finland-Swedish decadent upper class". In the autumn 1975 Tikkanen published his autobiographical text *Brandovagen 8 Brando Tel. 35* and Kihlman brought out his novel called *Dyre prins*. Both of the books are reviewed in the main Finland-Swedish newspapers and subsequently they provoke some discussions, whilst the largest polemic is risen in the beginning of 1976 by the television appearance of both writers. This thesis called "The Tikkanen - Kihlman Debate. Prelude. Works - Reception - Polemics" seeks to explain the events of the autumn 1975 and of the first half of the year 1976, concerning the reception of the both works and the interconnected literary debates. On the methodological level the thesis handles the material thematically by the standard method "ad fontes" (supporting tool 1 - question WHAT), while the interpretation in the first place as a generation revolt is performed by means of the theory of literary field, based on so called Pierre Bourdieu's French Sociological School (supporting tool 2 - question WHY). A starting point is in this connection also a study of the Finland-Swedish literary field made on the basis of the research of another literary polemic risen in 1965, made by Trygve Söderling. The introduction chapters briefly outline features of the Finland-Swedish literature as a minority literature, mainly from the point of view of the problem of Finland-Swedish identity, and some other considerations in the context of the literary criticism and polemics and the Finland-Swedish press. The following chapter describes general literary trends of the 1960's and the first half of the 1970's, which is the period discussed in this work.