

# Summary

## **The image of the Camorra in contemporary Neapolitan prose**

The Camorra or "the System", as lots of residents of Naples call it, is a criminal organization that has intensified its activities since the 1980s and today it affects all aspects of lives of people living in Campania. This thesis focuses on the impact of the Camorra on lives and work of contemporary Neapolitan writers, or more precisely, it describes the way the theme of the Neapolitan mafia is represented in their books. The authors of the analyzed texts are Peppe Lanzetta, Giuseppe Ferrandino, Andrej Longo, Giuseppe Montesano, Simone Di Meo, Roberto Saviano and Valeria Parrella. For the purpose of this thesis, we have chosen the works that are interesting in terms of genre adaptation of the topic and in terms of the characteristics of the main characters of each story. Following the behaviour of the main characters, we observe the direct impact of the Camorra on life in Naples and its influence on the mentality of its inhabitants. We aim to define the conditions under which the people ruled by the Camorra are forced to live and at the same time, we analyze how they face up to this destiny: whether they persist and hope for change or resign and leave their hometown to try their luck elsewhere, mostly in northern Italy. Addressing each book, we also observe the co-existence of "ordinary" population with camorristis; we examine if Naples is strictly divided into quarters where crime is a part of everyday life and wealthy neighborhoods in which people, at least seemingly, lead decent lives and if lower-class people cooperate with the Camorra, be it out of desperation or a desire for recognition. However, we don't evaluate only the way the topic is handled. We also focus on the use of various types of linguistic and stylistic devices. We observe how the authors combine standard and colloquial Italian with Neapolitan dialect in their books and how this linguistic combination contributes to the overall representation of the Camorra. We analyze the difference between fiction texts and texts which can be defined as documentary-fiction, to show the effect of the combination of reportage elements and literary techniques, or rather the integration of data and facts into a "story". On the basis of the interpretation of each text, we reflect on the image of the Camorra created in the books: whether the realistic representation of this phenomenon prevails, whether the works are openly critical, whether they offer solutions to the difficult situation and whether "genius loci" of Naples is somehow still present.