

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis deals with the topic of Sámi poetry. The main aim of this work was to examine the history and development of lyric poetry written in North Sámi in Finland. Apart from that I also tried to find certain attributes or trends common in Sámi poetry. In this thesis I used the encyclopedic method.

In the first part of the thesis I examine the North Sámi yoik from a literary perspective. Yoik is often considered to be the foundation of Sámi literature and also in this work it has turned out to be very important for Sámi literary development. The influence of the yoik can be seen through the whole history of Sámi poetry.

In the next chapters I introduce important poets and their work from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to present. I focus mainly on authors originating from the Finnish side of Sámiland. In addition to that I present some important historical and social events that had an impact on literature. In the final chapter, I briefly deal with the situation in publishing and translating Sámi poetry.

Because my knowledge of North Sámi is very limited, I analyzed all the literary works presented in this thesis with the help of Finnish or English translations. In spite of that I managed to find some common trends in Sámi poetry.

**Keywords:** Finland, Sámi literature, poetry, yoik, Northern Sámi language