

## **TITLE**

The Concept of Childhood in Fyodor Sologub's prose

## **ABSTRACT:**

This Master thesis deals with the topic of childhood in prose works of the Russian writer, novelist and teacher Fyodor Sologub. The research presents his biography, traces the development of his personality, as well as his perception of the world and interests. It focuses on the events, which determined the extent and significance of the chosen topic for Sologub. There are also revealed lesser known facts of his childhood that influenced his choice of the topics and its embodiment in his literary works. The writer's biography is complemented by the views of critics and contemporaries who studied his works and shaped public opinion. The main topics of the analysis are: dualistic vision of the world, children's death, faith in God, children's patriotism. The ideal world of children is presented in the novel *The Created Legend*. The thesis also reveals the popularity of the topic of childhood in other 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century writers' oeuvre in comparative analysis with Sologub's work. It also depicts the importance of two literary movements – symbolism and decadence, their representative Sologub was. The questions raised by Sologub remain relevant to the present day.

## **KEY WORDS:**

Russian literature, F. Sologub, Symbolism, Decadence, Childhood