

Summary

This bachelor thesis deals with a child character in the short stories of Leonid Andreyev. The aim of the thesis is to find out the importance of a child in works of this author. To achieve this aim, the author of this thesis uses specialized literature and especially her own analysis of the stories.

The first and the second part of the thesis concentrate on the general political and cultural overview of that time. It also focuses on the connection between Andreyev's works and artistic movements of his time.

The third chapter informs about the development of a childhood theme in the literature and aspects of a childhood appearing in the works of Russian writers of 19th century. Especially in the books of Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy and Chekhov whose output probably influenced Andreyev mainly. The fourth part is devoted to Andreyev's life, writing and the typology of his characters. The fifth part includes an analysis of some stories which are divided into three groups, according to the function which a child fulfills there. At first are described the stories in which children are the main characters while their role in the stories of the other group is just symbolic. The story called "The Book" is analyzed on its own as it is not possible to place it into any of the created groups.

The last part is dedicated to the overall summary of a child character in Andreyev's stories. The author of this thesis comes to a conclusion that Andreyev gives the children primarily the main roles to show their social status in the society of that time. Furthermore, he perfectly describes psyche of a child. The stories in which a child has a symbolic meaning are the second type which the author uses. To sum up, Leonid Andreyev thanks to his approach goes from a classical conception of a childhood to modernist one.