

ABSTRACT

The subject of this thesis is *The Romance of Ferrara* which includes the majority of prosaic work of Giorgio Bassani, one of the most outstanding Italian writers of 20th century. The introduction shows historical and social context of the period in which Bassani grew up and that gave rise to his life philosophy. Without this experience he would never have become a writer and his moral obligation to take down all the truth is based on this fact. The Jewish origin of Bassani plays also an important role in his *oeuvre*; the Judaism includes a sense of exceptionality and marginalisation at the same time. This ambivalent feeling is characteristic for majority of Bassani's heroes. The central part of the thesis outlines the thematic and stylistic site of *The Romance of Ferrara*. We will map even the relationship between the narrator and the author himself, between fiction and reality. The last two chapters concern Ferrara, symbology of the space (vertical and horizontal as well) and the location of characters on the stage of this microcosmos. We will follow characters on their way through Ferrara and will study which role different places are playing within the Bassani's work.