

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis deals with the question of race in the discourse of representatives of the woman suffrage movement in the USA. Its goal is to find out how was the theme of race used in the effort of women to achieve the right to vote, where the main focus is on the discourse of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony as the leading figures of white middle class American feminism and suffragism. The thesis uses the method of critical discourse analysis and tries to find out how were black men, black women, or white women themselves (in order to compare themselves with other groups of people) presented by the authors during the campaign for the voting rights.

Very important for the thesis is the relation text-context, the relation between speeches or articles of the authors and social conditions of the period. That is why this thesis deals with the wider context of authors' discourse, especially with the history of voting rights in the USA and the history of woman rights movement. The description in the thesis starts before the American Civil War, then it goes through the Reconstruction period, when the important constitutional amendments were passed, through 1870s and 1880s, to the end of the 19th century, when the Southern states introduced new limitations of the voting rights. The aim of the thesis is therefore also to be focused on the evolution of the discourse of Stanton and Anthony considering described constitutional changes and changes in the woman suffrage movement.