ABSTRACT:
This work in the field of French linguistics gives a partial view of the system of past tenses in French, and their use in the work of contemporary French writer. It is divided into two main parts, theoretical part and a practical part, which are complemented by an introduction and a conclusion summarizing the results of the analysis. In the theoretical part, the author first outlines the relationship between the perception of time and language, and then presents the different past tenses by studying mainly French and Czech linguists. For each tense they are presented the characteristics and uses of the abundant number of examples. The practical part is devoted to analysis of the use of past tenses in three selected works of French writer. There is emphasized ratio of occurrences in different works and how they use. Based on the analysis drawn appropriate partial conclusions about the current application of past tenses in literary writing.

KEYWORDS:
French language
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