Abstract

The aim of this work is to present depiction of seven deadly sins in the Italian literature of 14th century. To achieve this goal the thesis analyses the writings of the three most important writers of that period. The main texts that are analyzed in this work are: an allegorical epic poem *La divina commedia* (The Divine Commedy) by Dante Alighieri, a collection of novellas *Il Decameron* (The Decameron) and allegorical poem *Ninfale d’Ameto* (The Comedy of Fiorentine Nymphs) by Giovanni Boccaccio, and last but not least Francesco Petrarca's latin writing *Secretum meum* (My Secret Book). The thesis is divided into eight chapters. The first three chapters have an introductory character. There is introduced the concept of sin in general, the traditional catholic concept of seven deadly sins, as well as the historical context of Italy in 14th century. The fourth chapter is the beginning of the focal part of the thesis. There are subsequently presented Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarca, and their concept of deadly sins, their ideas on the relationship between the sins and love, on the relationship between the sins and the virtues, as well as their thoughts on causes of deadly sins and on possible ways how to avoid them. The thesis is then concluded with eighth chapter, which summarizes what has been found in the previous chapters. This chapter also points out differences and similarities between the three authors, and there is as well indicated a certain progress in the approach to seven deadly sins, which happened during 14th century.