

Abstract

The Bachelor thesis „Americanization of Jewish children in New York, 1881-1914“ deals with the issue of integration of the recently arrived Jewish immigrants' children into American society. It focuses on the third wave of Jewish immigration to the United States and its' specifics, and problems the immigrants had to face. In the thesis, the author examines the tools of Americanization – public schools, and non-governmental Jewish organizations. It also analyzes the role of religious education in this process. The main goal of this thesis is to analyze these tools and show how and whether the Jewish children were open to accepting American values. Marcus Hansen's theory of assimilation of the first three generations of immigrants known as the Hansen effect (law) is applied. Contemporary articles were used as primary sources to carry out the analysis, along with secondary literature about Jewish migration to the United States. Based on the analysis it was possible to show what effect did the individual institutions have on the process of Americanization. It was also possible to join the critics of the Hansen effect who say it is too elementary. The outcome of this thesis shows that the second generation of Jewish immigrants americanized successfully, yet preserved their identity.