

Abstract (in English):

This diploma thesis deals with the literary image of Sicily by analysing characteristic works by four Sicilian authors in the historical period from the process of the Italian unification to the end of World War II. The authors are Giovanni Verga, Luigi Pirandello, Vitaliano Brancati and Leonardo Sciascia. This thesis is based primarily on the assumption that these writers are subjective and empiric authors and their works clearly reflect the fact that they hail from Sicily having been influenced by its societal norms and traditions. The author supports her arguments by the theoretical essays written by Leonardo Sciascia, who devoted his lifetime to the study of Sicily from the historical, social, political and anthropological perspective. The basic prerequisite for this work therefore consists of three theoretical publications: *Pirandello e il pirandelismo* (1953, *Pirandello and the pirandellism*), *Pirandello e la Sicilia* (1961, *Pirandello and Sicily*), *La Sicilia come metafora* (1979, *Sicily as a metaphor*). In this thesis the author attempts to trace the common attributes and linking motifs throughout selected characteristic works and their analysis. As a conclusion, the author summarizes her observations and intends to find more general parallels between the historical development of Sicily within the framework of European history.