

## Abstract

### **The Concept of Duality in Culture and Myths of Lakota Indians**

The purpose of the dissertation is to explore and research the broad topic of culture of Lakota Indians from the perspective of secondary abstraction inspired by the structuralist approach to anthropology. The concept of duality is perceived here as a general concept which is – as it is our belief – present across various categories and areas of Lakota culture, both in the past and in the present. The dissertation is conceived as a set of chapters each of which deals with a different area of Lakota culture from the perspective of this secondary abstraction.

First, we specify and define our understanding of duality and show how the original approach of structural anthropology has been modified in the course of time by postmodernists' critique. The theoretical introduction is followed by studies of four areas of Lakota culture in which the concept of duality is shown. The first two topics – Lakota myths and traditional visual art of the Lakota – are based primarily on ethnographical data collected by other researchers of the area. On the other hand, the other two areas – Lakota identity and the phenomenon of contemporary summer powwows in Lakota reservations – are based largely on the author's research in this area in summer 2014 and 2015. However, we have attempted to set the issue of Lakota culture in the context of interconnected global cultural issues through the study of contemporary European hobbyist movement.