

Abstract

This bachelor thesis seeks to describe the ways in which the Strugatsky brothers depict the unreal (that is the supernatural, non-existent phenomena) in their 1968 novel *Snail on the Slope* (Улитка на склоне). The primary purpose of the thesis is to find out what linguistic means and devices are used to create an image of the unreal. The thesis is based on the theoretical framework of cognitive linguistics. This field of linguistic research puts an emphasis on an idea that the speaker's experience of being in space and time is interconnected with one's linguistic behavior. It is characteristic of language, however, that it can depict the unreal and describe what does not exist in the empirical reality. From that perspective, the questions of how the Strugatsky brothers portray the unreal non-existent phenomena and what epistemological meaning such portrayal may have appears to be of particular importance.