

This study deals with the theme of solitude in the collection of essays entitled 'The Labyrinth of Solitude' by Octavio Paz and in the novel 'The Tunnel' by Ernesto Sabato. After an introductory chapter, which introduces the word 'solitude' from an etymological and semantic point of view, this thesis addresses the concept of solitude in general i.e. how this concept is understood in psychology and, last but not least, in philosophy. As the topic of this thesis is the motif of solitude in literary works the occurrence of this theme throughout the history of literature will also be mentioned.

The next crucial part of the thesis focuses on the analysis of the two selected works. The first one is the previously mentioned collection of essays 'The Labyrinth of Solitude'. The analysis of the individual essays, in the order in which they occur in the second edition published in 1959, represents the most extensive part of the present thesis. With the topic of the thesis in mind, the theme of solitude is emphasized, as it appears in all of the essays, although it is expressed on various semantic levels. The conclusion of this part is a summary, which aims to elucidate the starting points of Octavio Paz and facilitates the overall understanding of his work.

In the following part of the thesis, the second selected work – 'The Tunnel' by Ernesto Sabato – is introduced. The objective of this part is to give a brief account of the structure and plot of the novel, and to describe the traits of the characters and the environment, in which they find themselves. A chapter dealing with the significance of the work's title is an essential part of the analysis of the novel.

The final part of the thesis compares and contrasts the motif of solitude in the two works, the presence of which in both works is indisputable. Despite the differences in treatment of solitude, the common aspects of the two works and the underlying similarities of the two authors' ideas are demonstrated.