

## **ABSTRACT**

This diploma thesis deals with three contemporary German novels from the point of view of cultural studies and social psychology, in which the characters within the institution of family intergenerationally cope with the National Socialist past. Quotations from the texts aim to document how the thematic units of recollection, memory, generation and gender are related, and also to enlighten the fine nuances in the used terms, such as collective, cultural and communicative memory, or official and private memory. Family talk serves as a means of communication; it demonstrates what the individual members of the family remember in relation to the period of National Socialism, World War II and the Holocaust, what they have forgotten, how the memories differ according to generation or gender, and what changes the memories undergo over time.

## **KEYWORDS**

Recollection, memory, remembering, forgetting, generation, gender, collective memory, cultural memory, communicative memory, generation memory, family memory, family talk, family history, family stories, National Socialism