

Abstract

This thesis proceeds from the Toni Morrison's novel *Sula* and it mainly concentrates on a mutual relationship between an individual and society as reflected in the book. It consists of two main parts. The first one describes some aspects of the African-American history; the second one focuses on the individual characters in *Sula* and analyzes the Bottom society, charted against principles of US society in general. Individuality as the basic point of this thesis is shown as the moving element in the development of the society that also gives the direction of that development. Relationship between an individual and society is considered dialectic – on one hand, particular individuals participate in the development of the society, destroy stereotypes and violate dogmas; on the other hand, these people are often subdued and limited for the sake of the proper functioning of the society. Primary basis of this work is an assumption of the necessity of individual driving elements in the society for its (social) ceaseless development and subjectivism as the basic point of view on human existence.

Key words: human being, gender, race, society, subjectivism, womanism.