

The theoretical part of this thesis deals with the description of specific morphological and syntactic features of Irish English. The list of non-standard features is based on contemporary literature and is comprehensive in number. The aim of this part is to provide a synchronic account of contemporary non-standard features which occur in the Republic of Ireland. The frequency of selected features is proved via the Irish branch of the *International Corpus of English*. The *British National Corpus* is used occasionally as a means of comparison with British English.

In the practical part the non-standard features are traced in use. The list of specific features found in three plays by contemporary Irish dramatists is provided with a brief commentary. The specificity of these features is verified via works established in the field of the grammar of English.