

## **Abstract**

This thesis aims to introduce the Italian writer Italo Svevo and his three key novels: *Una vita* (A Life), *Senilità* (As a man grows older) and *La coscienza di Zeno* (Zeno's Conscience). At the beginning I briefly summarize the history of multicultural Trieste, which had considerable influence on the author and which is the setting of the three novels. The bi-bibliographical section will chronologically portray Svevo's personal and professional life and his literary and dramatic works.

The connecting point of his works is "*inettitudine*", or indifference, ineptitude and passivity of the main characters lives. Further, one of Svevo's topics handled repeatedly is the family, relations between its individual members, love and rivalry.

The work focuses on Svevo's novels. Finally, I try to compare all three works, to find differences between them and summarize the overall continuity and transformation of Svevo's heroes.