

## Abstract

The purpose of my Bachelor thesis is to analyze the motif of the sea in Modern Greek literature, particularly in prose. I have chosen this topic for it combines linguistics with literature. The sea plays a great part in the life of the Greeks and I find it very interesting how Greek writers reflect this fact in their works. The thesis is composed of three chapters. Introductory chapter outlines historical development of sea-voyage and summarizes appearance of the sea theme in the Ancient and Byzantine literature. Chapter Two illustrates motifs of the sea voyages and nautical theme in realistic works of Modern Greek writers of the 20th century. Chapter Three deals with two novels written by authors of the Generation of 30's and influenced by the Asia Minor Disaster. This chapter consists of four parts. Part One examines *The Mermaid Madonna* by Stratis Myrivilis. Part Three investigates Elias Venezis' *Aeolian Earth*. Both of them used in their novels legends of mermaids. Part Two provides a comparison between their different approaches to the particular legend. In those three parts I focus on figurative language and distinctive style of these authors in selected passages closely connected with the sea theme. The last part of the third chapter is dedicated to Greek fairytales which had great impact on the two novels mentioned above. The main aim of the thesis is to show various forms of the motif of the sea in Modern Greek prose. I endeavour to prove the great importance of the sea theme in a Greek history, mythology and folklore, the three main sources of Modern Greek literature.