

ABSTRACT

This dissertation presents an analysis of the genre of conceptual novel created by the Latvian novelist Alberts Bels. Specifically, it deals with four novels that have been translated into the Czech language: *The Investigator* (1967), *The Cage* (1972), *The Voice of a Herald* (1973) and *Insomnia* (1987); however, the author focuses predominantly on *People in Boats* (1987), a novel that is yet to be translated and is regarded to be one of Bels's most accomplished novels. The selected extracts, translated by the author of this dissertation, are representative of the nature of Bels's work as well as of his artistic and personal contribution to the Latvian literature and culture in general.

The dissertation focuses on literary interpretations of the selected works and treats them with regard to the period of their conception, because themes such as 'individual' and 'nation', 'time' and 'stream of history', human and ethical values and, above all, moral decline of an individual and of the entire society on the background of political and cultural development in Latvia become central in Bels's conceptual novels. Their conceptuality lies mainly in their highly compact form, through which Bels voices his philosophical ideas, implicit in the overtones of his novels.