

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis deals with Eastern Karelia, which played an important role in formation of Finnish patriotism and led, among other factors, to the awakening of national feeling of Finnish people. First, the area is geographically classified and then concepts related to Karelia are explained. This is followed by a brief introduction to the topic of patriotism and nationalism and the development of Finnish national consciousness. The main part of this work consists of two chapters – the first is dedicated to the history of Eastern Karelia, the second deals with the relationship of Finns to Eastern Karelia in the first half of the 19th century.

**Keywords:** Eastern Karelia, patriotism, Finland, Kalevala, Lönnrot, Finnish, folk poetry