

## **Abstract**

The aim of this diploma thesis is to elucidate the ambiguous relation between the concepts of *absolute alterity* (tout Autre), *there is* (il y a) and the *element* (L'élément) in the work of Emmanuel Levinas. The investigation starts with a presupposition, that the above-mentioned concepts can all be considered a form of alterity. First part of the thesis thematises *il y a* against the backdrop of two seminal texts - *From Existence to Existents* and *Time and the Other* – and also in relation to Martin Heidegger's philosophy. Second part is structured around the analysis of the element, as it is presented in *Totality and infinity*. Part three deals with the concept of absolute alterity, which is contrasted to the conception of the totalizing subject. In the last part of the thesis, these three distinct kinds of alterity are brought into relation and qualitatively differentiated from one another.

**Key words:** Levinas, Heidegger, alterity, radical alterity, totality, il y a, there is, element, From Existence to Existents, Totality and Infinity, Time and the Other