

Abstract

The thesis will examine the novel *The Backstreets a novel from Xinjiang* written by Perhat Tursun, a contemporary Uyghur writer from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China. The author will provide a brief overview of the current situation in Xinjiang and of the evolution of Uyghur prose. The research part of the thesis will perform a content analysis of the novel focusing on the trope of searching and on the trope of the identity of the novel's main character, as well as on the impact of the socio-economic situation in Xinjiang on the life of the protagonist. Using relevant scholarly literature, the conclusions will be interpreted in relation to the developments in Xinjiang from the late 1970s to 2015. The methods of work will be textual analysis and interpretation and contextualization using published theoretical and empirical literature. In addition to the English translation, the author will work with selected passages in the Uyghur original, several of which she will translate and interpret.

Keywords

China, Xinjiang, Uyghurs, Uyghur literature, Perhat Tursun