

## SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

### **Myths, Gods and Saga Structure. On Herosim and Tradition in the Old-Norse Sagas.**

The thesis presents a multi-contextual analysis and comparison of the Old-Norse Saga *The Völsungasaga* and the German epic *The Nibelungenlied*, which in essence are supposed to account on the same story, however, they are presented vitally differently. The thesis identifies major distinctions offered through the analysis of the source texts – with consideration of various translations of the texts – based on themes such as the heroic behavior, side characters, animals, artefacts as well as the depiction of traditions, considering the representation of said customs in both of the source texts.

The analysis of *The Völsungasaga* and *The Nibelungenlied* is used to apply on works inspired by the two great texts, closely evaluating Richard Wagner's "The Ring Cycle" operas and other works based on the story of Sigurd/Sigfried. Chapter four also addresses other types of media, such as manga and film, adding to the idea of the source stories' receptions and potential re-writings.

The last chapter too, provides a view on modern ideas of heroism and its depiction. Arthurian myth and the works of J.R.R. Tolkien are examined in terms of comparison with what is represented in the source texts, showing a significant overlap of motifs in all texts. Those motifs are then analyzed and compared with the other sources examined. The thesis offers a conclusion based on the various ideas portrayed, and offers a coherent idea of the hero figure and traditions throughout the *The Völsungasaga* and *The Nibelungenlied* as well as the texts' influences on modern literature, art and other media.

Keywords: Old-Norse, *The Völsungasaga*, *The Nibelungenlied*, epic, saga, Viking studies, Medieval texts, Tolkien, hero, tradition, heroism.