

Abstract: This thesis concentrates on literary works written by writers belonging to the resident Korean minority in Japan (*zainichi* Koreans). Through the use of postcolonial methodology, this work attempts to monitor the development and changes in the complex concept of “identity” in works written between the 1960s and 2010. The thesis is divided into two major parts. The first, theoretical part, explains the birth of the minority, the conflicts that influenced it and the changes it went through during its history. Postcolonial methodology is also explained, with focus put on the parts that are relevant to Japan. The second, practical part of the thesis, shortly explains the history of *zainichi* literature and then concentrates on five important postwar resident Korean writers – Ri Kaisei, Kin Kakuei, Yi Yang-ji, Kaneshiro Kazuki and Yu Miri. It analyzes between one and four works by each author and attempts to identify changes in the perception of “identity”. It also takes into account female characters and the way they are portrayed by the authors and also the language the book is written in, focusing on whether the author chooses to incorporate the Korean language into the text.