

## **Abstract**

The bachelor thesis focuses on the differences and similarities between the current and historical form of the Sumalyak female ritual in Uzbek society and its significance for people of the older and younger generations. The aim of the work is to understand the current attitude of Uzbek society to the Sumalyak ritual, for which traditions and rituals to this day are of great value.

The theoretical part of the work deals with legends describing the origin of this ritual and the pagan holiday of Nowruz, inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO list, of which the ritual of Sumalyak is a part. The work also includes references in fiction and other multimedia sources.

The second part of the text is the output of field research focused on the perception of the Sumalyak ritual by people of different ages and genders in Uzbekistan. As part of the field research, observation and subsequent interviews with the actors of this ritual will take place. The data obtained will then be compared with written sources. Also, the opinions of people who still live in Uzbekistan and the opinions of people who moved for various reasons are compared here.

**Keywords:** Central Asia, Uzbekistan, Nowruz, UNESCO, Sumalyak, annual ritual, tradition, woman.