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Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract The thesis studies the possibilities of regional integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The aim is to view the viability of the integration strategy chosen by SADC. The starting point of the theoretical framework is the traditional theories of economical integration, which do not give much hope for successful economic integration among developing countries. Certain qualifications have been made to these traditional market integration theories, which would enable their use also in the context of developing countries. Special emphasis is given to an integration strategy called development integration model, because it is the strategy that SADC claims that it is pursuing. The development integration model emphasises the equal distribution of benefits among the members of a regional grouping. This problem can be tackled with so-called corrective mechanisms. Establishment of those mechanisms depend largely on the attitude of member countries, and especially on the leading countries that bear the economical burden of the costs. In the empirical analysis it is seen that the current economical situation and trade patterns in Southern Africa do not favour integration according to the traditional models. Most of the economical benefits will concentrate to South Africa when a SADC free trade area will be formed. At the same time the less-developed members of the region could end up economically even worse-off than at the moment. This problem can be solved only with the corrective mechanisms. The success of establishing the corrective mechanisms and the whole development integration model depends largely on the future role of South Africa. The theoretical material of the work consists mainly of the traditional integration theories, but also of the more recent studies on the regionalization in Southern Africa mainly by Bertil Odèn. The empirical analysis is mainly based on the official statistics of SADC countries, but also on other academic research and official publications of SADC.			
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