

Abstract

This bachelor thesis compares and contrasts the depiction of social class in E.M. Forster's *Howards End* and Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*. The theoretical part introduces the concept of social class as well as its portrayal in Edwardian literature and in contemporary British literature and also in the works of E.M. Forster and Zadie Smith. Due to the apparent connection between the two texts, an overview of intertextuality and its functioning in literature is added to the theoretical part. The practical part of the paper interprets *On Beauty* as a pastiche of *Howards End* but mainly provides the analysis of the two novels in terms of their view of social stratification, in particular the differences between upper middle class and working class.

Key words:

Howards End, *On Beauty*, E.M. Forster, Zadie Smith, social class, middle class, working class, intertextuality