

Abstract

Although the combination of humour and holocaust may seem rather startling, further analysis of humour characteristics brings to light its significant functions, which, according to the survivors, humour in the holocaust truly fulfilled. Whether it is a matter of being able to see the object of one's attention from several perspectives, from an emotional distance or being able to release accumulated frustrations, there is clear evidence of humour's appreciable role during the holocaust and in the aftermath. Within the framework of coping with the trauma caused by the holocaust experience also emerged holocaust literature dealing with the subject from a humorous perspective, which motivated a lot of debates developed about appropriateness of humour in the holocaust representation. To other controversial works from this area also belong the short stories by Tadeusz Borowski and the novel *The Nazi & the Barber* by Edgar Hilsenrath.

This master thesis follows humour, satire and cynicism as means of coping with traumatic holocaust experience based on the example of the above mentioned works of Tadeusz Borowski and Edgar Hilsenrath, which, according to many critics, tested the limits of holocaust representation thanks to their unusual humorous approach. Thus, the aim of the thesis is to analyze these works focusing on their humorous approach and evaluate the acceptability of humour as means of reconciliation with holocaust experience in its representation.