

Abstract

This diploma thesis examines the relationship between waste and people in the collection yard. The collection yard is used for the separate disposal of such waste, which due to its size or material cannot be stored in conventional bins. Because our society is focused on consumption and consumption, a lot of things are thrown away, but other people find them interesting or useful, so they take them out. However, nothing should be taken away from the collection yard, as the waste is not homeless, but is defined by property rights. At the same time, the main principle of waste management – the waste hierarchy states that before a thing becomes waste, it should be used differently. I therefore deal with how this concept of waste conditions the movement of things in the collection yard, how and by whom the removed waste can be used and what role the removal of waste plays in fulfilling the waste hierarchy. I decided to examine all this using anthropological methods, namely participatory observation at the collection yard and interviews with individual actors. Research has shown that things that could still serve someone are being thrown away unnecessarily at the collection yard. People decide to take them "on their own" with the unofficial cooperation of local employees. The removed waste is then used not only in the usual consumer way, but also, for example, for collecting purposes, for artistic creation or donating it to museums. The collection yard thus has an unrecognized potential not only to reuse discarded things, but also educational or cultural potential. Although it helps to sort even large or hazardous waste and not throw it into the landscape, it also points to the symptom of the current approach to waste, which is conceived mainly as matter to be cleaned from our eyes and does not allow enough space to perceive waste individually as individual things. At the same time, I put the collection yard in the context of the brownfield environment in which it is located. I point out that although we have mainly objects associated with waste, certain places or people can also be perceived.

Key words

consumption, waste, waste sorting, recycling, waste reuse, life of things, containers, collection yard, ethnography, anthropology of waste