ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis addresses the issue related to the representation of Native American people in American literature written by Caucasian authors across three centuries. The premise is that the selected authors, namely James Fenimore Cooper, Sarah Margaret Fuller, Cormac McCarthy and David Grann work with cultural stereotypes. However, the primary aim of this thesis is to critically examine how the various stereotypes originated and why they are used in literature. The underlying hypothesis is that stereotypical depictions are related to collective cultural imagination. Comparative alongside contextual analyses are utilised in the thesis for this type of research. The theoretical framework is mainly influenced by postcolonial theory and includes historical context linked to the emergence of particular stereotypes. The practical part examines the individual literary works in relation to the historical context presented, which influenced the emergence of the delineated stereotypes. Overall, it is thus possible to reveal how history has influenced writers' perceptions of Indigenous peoples and the extent to which the selected writers use, reshape or distance themselves from each stereotype in their narratives. The investigation is not only crucial for an increased understanding of the cultural representation of Native Americans in the United States, but it is also essential for deconstructing similar misconceptions to which both history and the written word contribute.

KEYWORDS

stereotype, culture, indigenous people, narrative, literature, misconception