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An (Iron) Maiden Perception of the Literary Canon

Pohled na literární kánon jako takový a skrz texty písní Iron Maiden

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Abstract

In its first part, this thesis will attempt to explore what really is the literary canon, what is its history, how it works, what are the different critical approaches to it etc. This exploration will focus on considering the presupposition that the literary canon (even Canon) is but a compilation of literary works centred around a governing meta-narrative, or a set of ideas and ideals which those responsible for creating a given canon are somehow, sometimes unknowingly, trying to spread. In its second part, this thesis will attempt to reconstruct a similar meta-narrative of its own based on the novels, stories and poems which were used as inspiration to write song lyrics by a famous British heavy metal band Iron Maiden. The principal method used for this task will be reading and interpreting this canon – the selected literary works – through the prism of the band’s song lyrics and trying to detect common characteristics and highlighted themes.