

Abstract

The topic of the thesis is the production of cheese in a slovak village Mokr. It is described from the perspective of Actors-Network theory and from the practice-turn point of view. The thesis combines the results of an ethnographic research on the location with an experimental ethnographic writing. It all comes from the notion, that cheese can be considered as an actor, that is able to influence physical and socio-cultural life of the cheesemongers. The cheese is taken as hybrid, natural, discursive and collective character. The author focuses on the agency of cheese primarily in the relationship to the bodies of the cheesemongers using the concept of practical understanding, as well as in the relationship to the landscape using the concept of terroir and taskscapes. In order to see the phenomenon of homemade cheese from a new perspective, the author writes from different space-time perspectives. At the beginning the space-time perspective is extended, so cheese is perceived as an event, what enables us to find new actors in the cheese production process. Afterwards the perspective is reduced to the world of the lactic acid bacteria to discover their impact on the cheese production, its taste and quality and on the discourse of micro-biopolitics. A separate part of the thesis is focused on the economics of the cheese in Mokr and its legitimacy.

Keywords: cheese, actor, ANT, agency, economy of cheese, legitimacy, taskscapes, terroir, practical understanding, experimental ethnography.