

Abstract

The thesis paper focuses on the American suburbia, which is understood as an important social and cultural concept which plays a key role in the cultural history of America. The paper defines the basic characteristics and components of the utopian myth of the modern suburbs, such as the pastoral ideal, the notion of deliberate withdrawal from the urban areas, the role of the community or the focus on family togetherness. These concepts are traced in the American cultural history, especially in the idealized legacy of the early settlers and early Puritan communities. The development of the usage and depiction of these cultural concepts in the literary fiction of the period between the 1950s and 80s is then traced in the texts of three major American chroniclers of the suburban life – John Cheever, John Updike, and Raymond Carver. The social context and the historical development of the suburbs are also taken into consideration.