

Abstract

This exploratory study aims to determine short non-professional film as a relevant object of study for anthropology and sociology. Firstly, short non-professional film is defined as a product of popular culture, but it shares many characteristics with the commercial film. Subsequently, short non-professional film is described as a distinctive genre of contemporary folklore. This definition will be based on its comparison with the characteristics of contemporary legends. Subsequently, the study shows, which symbolic functions could short non-professional film hold in society and thus help to set up its symbolic order. Film's main function is to bring limit experiences into everyday context of the viewer. In this way, the watching of short non-professional film becomes a rite of passage that gives to the audience the opportunity to experience the state of liminality - violation of order - through suspense. This tension, however, the viewer experiences in a safe symbolic world of the film itself. In the final catharsis, which is enhanced by an elliptical plot, then it release the tension and restore social order. This study is a combination of quantitative research and ethnography in cyberspace. The study brings the subjectivity of the researcher and also his essential reflexivity into the center of text itself. Furthermore, the work also seeks to draw attention to methodological risks that research on the Internet represents. Finally, the work presents two case studies of topics that can be analyzed in short non-professional films. In this way, the study builds an imaginary foundation for future research.