

Abstract

The Phd thesis titled *Boundaries of the labyrinth* and subtitled *Literary space in the Italian postmodern novels* strives for specification and closer definition of the genre of post-modern novel through the analysis of literary space. Formally, the thesis is divided into three parts. The first part aims to provide a theoretical introduction into the problems of three areas related to the given topic, namely the definition of postmodernity and postmodernism, the genre of the novel itself and last but not least the study of space in literature. The content of the second part is the actual literary and scientific analysis of the selected novels (*Città invisibili* and *Se una notte d'inverno un viaggiatore* by Italo Calvino, *Notturmo indiano* by Antonio Tabucchi, *Comici spaventati guerrieri* by Stefano Benni and *Oceano mare* and *City* by Alessandro Baricco) which follows three basic and most frequent spacial topoi occurring in these novels, namely the topos of the city, the house-hotel and the road. The third and final section sums up the observed aspects and characteristics and strives to use them as a basis for determining a certain and generalizing spacial and temporal principle which would facilitate at least a partial characterization of the postmodern novel as an independent genre.