Abstract

The thesis explores Czechoslovak Spartakiads in the context of modern mythologies theory. The analysis is concerned with reflection on changes of shape and ideological image of the Spartakiad from the 1950s to the 1980s. The thesis explores the Spartakiad as a cultural and sporting event and as an unique type of collective ritual in conditions of socialist dictatorship. The main focus is put on the narratives generated by the Spartakiad tradition and its evolution. Moreover it tries to regard possibilities to define the Spartakiads in the context of aesthetics of performativity. Based on analyzing those signs and cultural meanings, the thesis follows the role of the Spartakiad and Spartakiad-related subjects in formation of mythologies of the changing communist regime and its specific festivity, and also the Spartakiad's function in the process of the dictatorship's self-legitimation and in the promotion of concrete social coexistence models. Particular chapters of thesis are concerned with reflection on Spartakiad narratives in a relation to time and space as principal narratological categories. Last chapter contains a case study dedicated to performances of children and youth in 1955 and 1980 – this case study tries to approximate specific ways of emblematisation of gymnasts in Spartakiad compositions and in its representations in press and official printed matters.

Key words: Czechoslovak Spartakiad, Czechoslovakia 1948-1989, stalinism, normalization, sport, mass gymnastics events, ritual, ideology, myth, modern mythologies, performativity, aesthetics of performativity, semiotics, social history