

Abstract

This thesis deals with the villains' depiction in the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies. By examining the first 20 movies of the series, I try to find out how are the villains depicted in the MCU movies and what are their motivations. This is achieved through combination of studying relevant literature that deals with the topic, qualitative content analysis of the movies and narrative analysis, which is based on the monomyth structure of Joseph Campbell and its reinterpretation for movies and television by Christopher Vogler. In this thesis I first shortly describe the history of superhero movie as a whole and the specifics of the shared Marvel Cinematic Universe. In the theoretical part I describe Campbell's and Vogler's narrative structure. Then I describe the methodology, which I then use to describe the findings and their interpretations. In this part I examine the villains' motivations, which are divided into several categories, and examine their story arcs through the prism of the Hero's journey structure. Here it is shown that the villains in the MCU movies are depicted in an overwhelmingly Manichean way. In the discussion, I describe possible issues with my research and suggest potential directions of further research. In the conclusion, I then summarize the findings of both the theoretical and the analytical parts of the thesis.