

ABSTRACT

This bachelor's thesis deals with the role and the influence of a small-town environment and its values on the story, identities and actions of individual characters in the work of an American author Harper Lee *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The theoretical part of the thesis focuses on the importance of small town for the American society as well as on the development and position of the American small-town literature in American literary canon. The theoretical part establishes definitions of the characteristic features of the American small town and primarily focuses on questions of justice, equality, stereotypical thinking, and prejudices in the scope of the American south which is essential for understanding the southern small-town environment. The practical part attempts to characterise the typical small-town features of justice and equality described above within the narrative of the novel itself and through the actions and personalities of individual characters and the community as a whole. Apart from that, the thesis attempts to provide an insight into the essence of southern small-town justice.