

Abstract

This thesis aims to provide a thematic analysis of the leading Hebrew dystopian texts in contemporary Israel and to present a broader context of utopian thought within which these texts are best understood. The research attempts to explore and examine how the various anxieties and fears of Israeli society are reflected upon in contemporary Hebrew dystopian novels and how the Israeli reality is transformed and re-imagined, by means of authors' thought experiments, in the selected narratives. Dystopian fiction is an extremely useful tool for cultural studies inasmuch as it constitutes a direct interaction with the contemporary culture in that it describes an entire society suffering from oppressive and disastrous conditions which grow out of certain real-world social, political, and economic trends. Zionist utopian fiction which sought to imagine a Jewish homeland waned soon after the creation of the State of Israel and the local realities set the narrative on a much darker and more pessimistic course. Today many Israeli authors project a dystopian and (post-) apocalyptic future from the present Israeli reality by examining the current cultural and political situation. The thesis is, then, also an exploration of how these dystopian narratives come to terms with the current Israeli reality and what projections they offer us.