

Abstract

The bachelor thesis “Apocalyptic movie – background, forms and function” deals the apocalyptic movie phenomenon as a functional element in the occidental civilization since 1920s until now. It investigates the origins of apocalyptic thinking, i.e. expectation of the end-time, and emphasizes its religious, philosophic and practical impact in society based on Judeo-Christian tradition. It tries to adumbrate recent public apprehension, evoked by technology development, spreading of diseases, overpopulation or clash of cultures, and sums up various pessimistic visions in perspectives of human and natural sciences. Then it focuses on the beginning of apocalyptic theme in literary fiction and finally in cinematography. The work brings the original typology of apocalyptic themes, designed on the base of sample of one hundred and fifty best rated movies, and with that tries to confirm reflecting essence of apocalyptic movie, whereas compares distribution of themes and parallel social events or moods in decades. In an effort to clarify function of apocalyptic movie, the work, with help of McLuhan’s media theory, uses the concept of moral panic. It concludes, that visualization of danger and subsequent solution leads to discharging of moral panic’s potential. Labeling of deviation and presentation of shared values in movies helps to consolidate the group identity and stability of social order.