

Abstract:

The object of the paper is a theoretical analysis of the human body phenomenon as a distinctive cultural construction. Particular attention will be paid to forces by which, in a concrete cultural context, the body is transformed into symbolic and semiotic category, shared by members of a given culture. The paper aims to utilize the scientific potential of anthropology, which studies the human being as a unique unity of both superorganic and somatic components, verifying the hypothesis that the human body is not only a biological organism, but in the enculturation process becomes a symbolic object- a “somatized culture”.

Key Words

body; symbol; culture; system