

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with sociological approach to environmental problems in Niklas Luhmann's systems theory and proceeds mainly from Luhmann's book *Ecological communication*. The first chapter contains a brief summary of various forms of relation between sociology and environmental problems. The main part of the thesis is dedicated to a presentation of Luhmann's general sociological theory and its application to contemporary environmental problems. From Luhmann's viewpoint, it is an issue of the relation between the system of society and its environment. According to Luhmann, the possibilities of a social reaction to environmental problems are limited in two ways: because of the selectivity of social relations to environment and because of functional differentiation, i.e., the creation of operationally closed function systems within the system of society. Subsequently, I complete the explanation of Luhmann's position with the selected comments and critiques of *Ecological communication*. I also present Ulrich Beck's theory of risk society and point out its connection to Luhmann's approach, particularly in the case of functional differentiation of modern society.