

This diploma thesis compares the use of natural hallucinogens by native groups of Mexican and Peruvian inhabitants from the cultural-ecological point of view. The basis of the thesis is an ethno-botanical analysis of the particular plant species containing this type of psychoactive substances, an anthropological interpretation of shamanism and a description of the particular rituals focusing especially on their curative function. Attention is also paid to artistic displays of shamans and healers. In the end of the thesis the ritualised way of using hallucinogens is confronted with the attitude to drugs of the present society.