

ABSTRACT

The thesis presented here with deals with an analysis and genre definition of the Nordic detective story, which is currently very popular in the Czech Republic. It is namely an interpretation of the works done by two contemporary Nordic authors in question, i.e. Stieg Larsson and Jo Nesbø. With the first of the two authors I will be looking into the complete trilogy *The Millenium* containing volumes of *Män som hatar kvinnor* (2005), *Flickan som lekte med elden* (2006) and *Luftslottet som sprängdes* (2007). As regards in Nesbø's works, I have chosen a series of detective stories with detective Harry Hole as the main character, especially two of them *Panserhjerte* (2009) and *Snømannen* (2007) and which appear to be the most successful and the most typical.

On the grounds of the analysis of the particular literary categories such as the character of a detective and their investigative techniques, the narrative pattern, the narrator, and the continuum which are compared with the similar categories within individual historical detective schools itemized in the theoretical part of the thesis, and compared as well with other genres, it is to be stated that the Nordic crime fiction might be located somewhere on the border line between the detective story, the critical social novel and the thriller, taking on at the same time certain features of each of them.

Also, great attention will be dedicated to what extent the critical social topics appear in the writings of the two above mentioned authors and how the theme is presented in them.

KEYWORDS:

contemporary literature, Scandinavian crime fiction, detective novel, popular culture, Jo Nesbø, Stieg Larsson, social criticism