

The main aim of my work is to characterize the images of female literary heroines in the context of the horror genre. Analysis and interpretations of the selected texts have been drawn on two levels. The first stage of my analysis is the interpretation of women figures in area of today's social norms and values. This means on the socio-cultural level. The second stage is the analysis of archetypal symbology in text.

The first chapter deals with theoretical approaches of literature in traditional and feministic point of view in connection with theories of analysis and interpretation.

In the second chapter I am in detail interested in questions of methodology and methods and their application on the horror text on the theoretical and practical level in the context of my analysis. The chapter contains theoretical limitation of content interpretative analysis as a method I chose.

The next chapter comes out from common theoretical definition of genre. The factors typical especially for the horror genre are there described in more detail. The content of this chapter is targeted on the theoretical, epistemological and practical concepts that allow me to apply them to the concrete level of horror genre.

The archetypes require independent chapter of my work. In the centre of my interest there is a basic definition of archetypes, but mainly the possibility of their application on the contemporary literature. The next aim of this chapter is to describe the diversity of archetypal theories, which are attempting to provide a huge amount of categorization of archetypes and their symbology.

As a main part of my work I consider the last chapter that is especially about concrete analysis and interpretation of chosen literary works. The subjects of my analysis are novels written by H.P. Lovecraft, Clive Barker, Stephen King and Anne Rice. The interpretation is based on theoretical approaches from previous chapters both on the socio-cultural and archetypal level.