

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the topic of death and dying from classical to contemporary sociology in the modern Western societies. The thesis is divided into five parts in which the theoretical concepts of each author are discussed chronologically in sequence along with their classification into theoretical approaches. In the first part, the thesis is focused on the consideration of language in relation to the topic and it provides historical context to complete the overall picture of the changes the view of death and dying has been transformed in. The next chapter is focused on classical sociologists and thematization of the topic in their works. Furthermore, it covers the longest time-period of modern theories in the second half of the twentieth century, categorizing them into relevant theoretical approaches. The thesis concludes with the period of postmodern theories. Finally, all findings are connected in the final part of the thesis, discussion. Society has developed a death system which includes entire organization of rituals, traditions, norms and also language associated with death and dying, and the death system has been developing along with more complex organization of society. Therefore, the view of death and dying is not constant.

Key words: sociology of death, sociology of dying, socio-historical development, individualism, Disengagement theory, invisible death