

This thesis discusses the ways of how physically handicapped fans of Game of Thrones, a television series, identify with characters like or dislike and answers the questions how physically handicapped fans choose who they favour and who they don't, how they identify with them and how is their interpretation linked to their own experience of being handicapped and how their social reality influences how they perceive the media reality. The research reveals orthodoxies of power of the dominating ideology of being fit, against which “the ill” and “powerless”, define themselves, albeit subconsciously; it describes the difficulties, connected with their handicap, which they project into the series, behaviour strategies resulting from this phenomenon and how the world around interferes; and, last but not least, it confirms sociological premises of deepening empathy on the basis of different dimensions of one's own identities and experience. The qualitative research of audience is based on semi-structured interviews and deploys the interpretative approach, while the results are coded using the method of anchored theory.