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The Social and Ethical Dimension of Michael Haneke's Films

## **SUMMARY**

The work entitled *The Social and Ethical Dimension of Michael Haneke's Films* is of an analytical and research nature, and it refers to audiovisual works as empirical sources dealing with social issues. Therefore, the study aims to present and analyse Michael Haneke's works, primarily from a social and ethical perspective. Moreover, the author will try to prove in her work that ethics, which the director constantly refers to, is not suspended in limbo but is related to metaphysics. The third thesis is that Haneke's films open an exciting perspective for research on communication between the viewer and an audiovisual work.

The main research methods that will be used in this paper are qualitative analysis of the content of film messages, analysis of films as sources of content communicated – film analysis (with the usage of available publications), a method of synthesizing the acquired analytical knowledge, a method of thematic analysis of subject knowledge and a method of comparative analysis.

Due to the limited volume of the present paper, only some aesthetically selected aspects of Haneke's works that have left their mark on contemporary cinema will be analysed in detail.

The doctoral dissertation falls within the ambit of socio-ethical and media issues. It touches on the influence of the mass media, which Haneke criticizes. The director examines the problems of human life, distress, morality, and dignity and attempts to purge people of this last one.

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