

Public Abstract

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Title:FROM BOOK TO FILM: ON THE PROBLEM OF ADAPTATION IN STERNBERG, SCHLOENDORFF AND TYKWER.

My thesis deals with the problem of adaptation from literature to film through three German examples. I explore this question in the following novels and films: Professor Unrat by Heinrich Mann, Die Blechtrommel by Guenter Grass, and Das Parfum: Die Geschichte eines Moerders by Patrick Sueskind; Der Blaue Engel by Josef von Sternberg, Die Blechtrommel by Volker Schloendorff, and Das Parfum: Die Geschichte eines Moerders by Tom Tykwer. In my introduction I discuss the evolution of film as an art form, from moving pictures through silent film to modern cinema. Here I also compare the filmic medium with theater and literature in order to determine its multifaceted quality as a work of art.

In three following chapters, I discuss whether films are close or loose adaptations, and possible reasons. Another question is how the message given in the novel has been changed in film.

All three novels were created in 20th century, as well as two films, Der Blaue Engel and Die Blechtrommel. Third movie came out in 2006, and is hereby an example of modern film art. In all three pairs, novel versus film, one can see motive of sexuality that is presented differently in the written medium rather than in a visual one.

In each of three chapters I discuss how some motives appear differently in a novel and in the film, and how it reflects in aesthetic quality of the film.