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**THE PHENOMENON OF VAMPIRISM IN THE  
AMERICAN FILM INDUSTRY**

**Bakalářská práce**

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**Prohlášení:**

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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podpis

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis is focused mainly on phenomenon of vampire films since the beginning of the last century. The first part deals with vampires as mythological creatures, the Eastern-European folklore and characteristics, vampires origin in Romania and the most famous representative of Romanian mythology, Vlad Tepes. The next part introduces Bram Stoker and his work on the best known vampire novel Dracula. The following parts concentrate on the most important film adaptations of Dracula. The last part deals with vampires of the third millennium - the most influential movie adaptations and TV shows within ten years.

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# INTRODUCTION

It is an indisputable fact, that vampires have fascinated people hundreds of years and it is still going on. This topic is so popular, that nowadays, it has appeared in every aspect of our lives we can get in touch with. We can see it in literature, movies, ways of dressing and music style and many others. If we would search the internet, there are millions of websites about vampires and mostly popular movies they appear in. But in the past, it was not always like that. Vampires had been usually seen as villains who drank and consequently killed human beings. But during many decades, they have become special and admired by a lot of readers around the world.

I always thought this mania has started with Anne Rice and her Vampire chronicles and perhaps the most popular book of this series, Interview with the Vampire, which later on was adapted in a movie of the same name with Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt in leading roles. That is how I always imagined vampires could look like and behave. There were shown typical features of vampires, people are expecting. The mostly wide-spread knowledge is that they are nocturnal creatures, sucking human blood with their fangs, which keeps them alive and young, they are afraid of crucifixes and garlic is poisonous for them, they sleep in coffins and the Sun could kill them.

In my bachelor thesis I would like to deal with the most widespread characterization of vampires in Romanian culture and provide a view of the most valuable movie adaptations of novel Dracula by Bram Stoker. Afterwards, I would like to focus on the movie adaptation of Interview with the vampire, based on the book, written probably by the most influential author of vampire stories, Ann Rice.

The last part is devoted to new generation of vampires and their presentation in the movie adaptations and TV shows, which have affected general view on vampires in the new millennium.

The aim of this thesis is to provide an overview, how vampires have changed during centuries in various movie adaptations. I would like to refer to changes of vampire features and their special powers, which are far too different, from the primary concept of vampire, in this case Stoker's Dracula.



# 1. VAMPIRE AS A MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURE

In this chapter I would like to deal with the etymology of the word *vampire*, vampire appearance in folklore and their typical features and appearance in Eastern Europe.

## 1.1. Etymology and folklore

The etymology of this term is unclear, so we do not exactly know where the word *vampire* came from. But most probably, it is of pagan origin. In every Slavic language, from Czech to Croatian, we can meet up with the term *vampire* with slight different variations. Later on, other non-Slavic languages, including French (*vampir*) and English (*vampire*), had taken over this term. Evidently, the Czech term (*vampýr*) had come out of these languages. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 19) In the *Vampire book: The Encyclopedia of the Undead* there is said, that vampire is “*a peculiar kind of revenant, a dead person who had returned to life and continued a form of existence through drinking the blood of the living*” (Melton, 2011, p. 739).

The origin of this word reflects, how people started to be superstitious since the Middle Ages in Europe. Some of the wide-spread superstitions were part of the pagan period and ancient folklore of remote village areas . People tried to explain themselves strange appearances, and on the ground of that, some of the folk myths, superstitions and anathemas were created. Mostly, it had something to do with behavior of bloodthirsty creatures, like bats and wolves. These superstitions were causes of people’s ignorance and fear. Generally, they spread orally just among village community, who lived in a cruel world, they do not have any knowledge about. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 18)

In fact, the vampire myth is not just part of nowadays folklore, literature and media in Europe but we can find it all over the world, in many different variations. Every culture has its own imagination of a vampire. For instance, in ancient Greece, it was bloodthirsty Lamia or Lilith, luscious demon from Mesopotamia. (Montegueová, 2013, p. 9) Despite all of the different interpretations, the Eastern Europe mythology remains the most widespread after all. It takes place mainly in Transylvania, which is called the original homeland of vampires.

## **1.2. The Eastern European characteristics**

According Petr Štěpan's book, *Kniha Nosferatu* (2008), the East European characteristic of vampires, has become generally true for major part of cultures and nations. It describes a mysterious person with dark red lips and long teeth covered in blood, who has supernatural abilities and can control dark magic. The most characteristic sign about vampire is, his or hers, so called "bad (evil) look". It is attributed to not only vampires, but even to necromancers or satanists. *"People with dark hair and deep, cold eyes, with skinny, sometimes even bony, figure, pale skin and stiff hooked nose are predetermined to be the ones, with the evil-eyed look, mentioned above. This look has become integral part of vampire image."* (Štěpán, 2008, p. 21)

## **1.3. Physical and spectral vampire**

In Konstantino's book, *Upíři žijí* (1996), is a vampire perceived as two different creatures. The first one is characteristic folklore creature, the physical vampire, which has the same appearance as he was buried and wearing exactly identical clothes he was dressed in. He is not pale, in fact, his skin looks as if all the blood he sucked was filling every cell of his body. Thanks to all blood inside him, he looks puffy, hideously stinks, has long hair and nails and sharp teeth, but he has no fangs. In some cases, his eyes glows with unnatural, mostly red, light.

Another one, is so-called spectral vampire, that has dark outlines of his face, which are clear to see only for a moment. Mostly before the attack. These vampires are described to be “*something dark, that heavily bear*” (Konstantinos, 1996, p. 16). The most interesting sign is, that he is a ghost and is somehow connected with a corpse. He feeds on living people, while they are asleep. There is a theory, which says, that spectral vampire survives, because he drains blood or energy, or both. Then, at dawn, he returns to his corpse to transfer this energy to keep him “alive”. This theory supports the mystery of vampires, raising from the coffin without disturbing the ground. (Konstantinos, 1996, p. 16-17)

### **1.3.1. Characteristic features of physical and spectral vampire**

*Konstantinos* (1998) says, that vampires are divided not only into two groups, describing their appearances, but there are also differences in their abilities. If we compare as physical as spectral vampire, they have almost identical primary powers, but they have also secondary skills, which are different based on ethnic origin.

One of the primary characteristic features of the physical vampire is his ability to drink human blood, which gives him the strength. They are expected to have great power, which helps them to keep a victim defenseless, during the attack. These two abilities are the most common. The secondary feature is that in some cultures, people believe that vampires can have sexual intercourse with humans, but it is not desirable among vampires unlike in literature. Babies, who were conceived this way, can sense the presence of undead creature and they are able to get rid of vampires. There is also an ability which allows the physical vampire to live human life to a certain extent. (Konstantinos 1996, p. 17-18)

On the other hand, the primary characteristic skills of the spectral vampire are not so wide-spread, but there are two of them, which might seem true on the basis of documented causes. Spectral vampires are able to paralyze their victims and then obtain vitality of them, but more likely, it is about energy than blood. In some circumstances, when death bodies were found with signs of claws and bites, there had existed the theory, which says, that spectral vampires are also capable of sucking blood even they are in their spectral form. The ability to change body forms right before or even during the attack is one of their secondary characteristic skill, as well as levitation and flying. (Konstantinos 1996, p. 17-18)

## 2. ORIGIN

In this chapter I would like to focus on belief in vampires, especially in Romania, which is considered to be the place, where all the myths were created.

Nevertheless, according some investigators in the field of vampirism, there are statements, which assert that the real place, where the vampire myth has been created is civilization around the Indus river. However, evidences claim, that this nation believed in vampire godhood rather than some creatures of vampire race. (Konstantinos, 1996, p. 23) The first civilization who settled Mesopotamia were Sumerian, who believed in vampires and a creature which had the appearance of a vampire- *ekimmu*, found on their territory. Another creature found on Sumerian territory was *uruku*, which has the presumption to be the undead. There has been a notice, written in cuneiform, which says, that *uruku* was “*a vampire, who attacks human*” (Konstantinos, 1996, p. 25) Since that time, vampire stories are widespread around the world, in India, China, South America, Haiti and Africa, but none of these places has popularized vampire mythology as Europe – especially Romania.

### 2.1. Romania

Transylvania, which is the historical part in nowadays central Romania, has been the homeland of vampire myths and their most best-known representative – Dracula. We can still come across with strong belief of returning dead ones, which persisted from medial period till nowadays Romanian folklore. Probably the most widespread term, which we can hear of, is *nosferatu*, describing the Transylvanian vampire. Nevertheless, there have been more proper terms for vampires, according to the condition of their body. Therefore, this chapter does not

deal with *nosferatu*, but with the most accepted terms in Romanian folklore, *moroi* and *strigoi*. (Brodman, 2013, p. 35)

### **2.1.1.Moroi and moroaica**

People believed in so-called *moroi* (men) or *moroaica* (woman), who were allowed to be vampires or ghosts of Romanian countryside and their biggest desire was mostly animal blood. In *Curran* (2008) there are a lot of examples, when people might become *moroi*. Those, who did not go to church, who lied, stole, people who ate uncooked meat or drank a lot of distilled beverage or even had dirty thoughts of someone else's wife, were in danger that they would turn into *moroi*. Regarding their appearance, men *moroi* are noted to be pale and bald, so there is no difficulty to recognize them. On the other hand women *moroi* (*moroaica*) have dark red lips and are red in the face. (Curran, 2008, p. 135)

Moroi belong to the group of "living vampires" so they could die the same way as regular mortal person. When they died, they became a *strigoi*, who is more evil kind of vampire. The word *strigoi* has its roots in ancient Rome where *striges* was a term for witches. In *The Vampire Encyclopedia* is a *strigoi* described as a "dead vampire", whose distinguishing features include red hair, blue eyes, and the presence of two hearts" (Bunson, 1993, p. 247) They are mainly nocturnal beings, but there is a slight chance to see them even during a day, and it is not difficult to recognize them against ordinary people, since they do not cast shadow. (Curran, 2011, p. 20) There have been many ways of becoming a *strigoi*, including "suicide, witchcraft, criminal activities, perjury, death at the hand of a vampire, being the seventh son" etc. (Bunson, 1993, p. 247) A grave of *strigoi* was easy to find, because people believed there is a blue flame burning above it and is visible from afar. There has been a strong belief that inspiration for vampires, as we know them in Romanian folklore, comes from Vlad Tepes, Prince of Wallachia.

### **2.1.2. Vlad Tepes – Vlad the Impaler (1431 – 1476)**

It was just this historical figure, Vlad III. Dracul, who inspired Bram Stoker to write a story of a vampire Count Dracula.

Vlad Tepes or Vlad the Impaler was a prince of Wallachia and after his father's death (Vlad II.) he became the ruler of Wallachia, which is the historical region in Romania situated between the Danube river and the Southern Carpathians. But his journey to become a horrific ruler, as historical documents treat of him and is known for, was intricate enough. (Curran, 2011, p. 65)

Most likely, the city of Sighisoara, in Transylvania (nowadays part of Romania) is regarded as his birth place. He was born as the second son of Vlad II., a Wallachian warlord, also called as Dracul. Vlad II. was a member of the Order of Dragon, so his title "Dracul" comes from the Romanian word for "dragon". Interesting fact is that Romanian word "dracul" also means "the Devil". Vlad III. was known as Dracula, because the suffix "a", has the same meaning as German tile "von" or French title "de". The word "Dracula" might be translated as "son of the dragon" or "son of the devil" because of the suffix "a" as stated above. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 99)

Vlad III. grew up in Turkish exile, where he adopted not only their language, but also a way how the Ottoman people (Turks) treated their enemies. After his father's death, he had to take over all duties as the new ruler. During all the years in exile, he developed hatred against the Ottomans and wanted to revenge every injustice that had been committed on his family. While his father was still in charge, he fought against the Ottomans, who consequently conquered part of Romania, region Wallachia. As soon as Vlad III. became a successor, he decided to regain this area back. He was successful in this effort but after so many years of Ottomans reign, the region was devastated. The way, Vlad III. tried to raise economic situation and to reduce criminality, was extreme. Anyone, who tried to oppose him was impaled with no mercy.

In the Eastern Europe, he was seen as a fearsome tyrant, while his people considered him a hero and patriot. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 99, 100, 102)

For his brutal manners of terrorizing and executing his enemies by impaling them on the stake, he earned the nickname “Tepes” which in Romanian language means “the Impaler”. (Melton, 2011, p. 792) This method of killing his enemies was one of his favorite kind of executions. (Liška, 2005, p. 69) After couple of years, as the ruler of Wallachia, he was overthrown and escaped to Moldavia. He spent the next several years in safety, intriguing and preparing for his return to Wallachia. He managed this strike and his objectives were clear; “*to break the political power of the boyars, to deal with continuous threats from rival claimants to his throne, and to hold the conquering Ottomans at bay.*” (Joshi, 2011, p. 395) Vlad III. regain the throne again but later on he was killed in a battle. There has been various possibilities, how Vlad III. could die. But the one thing is obvious and that is, he was decapitated. It was believed, it is the only way how he would not harm people anymore. (Liška, 2005, p. 108) Although, he did so many cruel things, he was granted to have Christian funeral, because his people did not thought him to be a “vampire”. This belief has changed just after Bram Stoker published his novel Dracula and since then, Vlad III. was believed to be inspiration for Stoker’s character. (Joshi, 2011, p. 396)



### 3. BRAM STOKER

He was the author, whose the most famous piece of writing “Dracula”, is considered to be the synonym for classic literary fiction of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 150)

Abraham Stoker, or Bram, how he was informally called, was born on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1847 in Clontarf, which is a small village situated on the north of Dublin. In his childhood he was very sick and until the age of seven, he was confined to bed. That time was probably inspiring for him, because his mother read him a lot of horror stories, which might had the influence in his later writings. When he finished his secondary school studies, he attended and afterwards managed to graduate at Trinity College in Dublin. After attending the college he started working as a drama critic and free lance journalist. (Dr. Miller, online) After he wrote a review on theatre inscenation of Hamlet, with Henry Irving in the leading role, they became friends. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 152) He got a job offer to work as acting manager at the Lyceum Theatre, whose owner was Henry Irving himself. In that same year, Stoker got married with Florence Balcome, with whom he had only child, son, named after Stoker’s best friend Irving, whom he adored so much.

There have been speculations about his membership in the Golden Dawn, secret order of occultists, founded in 1887. Among its members belonged the most significant minds in the country. As mentioned above, thanks to his childhood illnesses and his mother, who brought him to this interest, he started to be enthusiastic about Irish folklore, the natural science, occultism and the supernatural. (Scarborough, 2008, online). Even he wrote several other books and short stories, the popularity of his Count Dracula has never been overcome.

Sadly he did not live long enough to see, how his work has become the worldwide phenomenon. He died in 1912 of exhaustion at the age of 64. (Štěpán, 2008, p. 37)

### 3.1. Working on the novel

At first, the most famous novel *Dracula* written by Bram Stoker, has been accepted embarrassedly, but in spite of this, the novel was included among other excellent horror stories of that period. Nevertheless, afterwards this piece of work has inspired many other vampire stories. It is allowed to be the breakthrough work, which placed vampires among the folklore in the West. (Bunson, 1993, p. 73) Most of us consider *Dracula* as the first vampire story, but before Stoker, there had been Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu and his Gothic novella, *Carmilla*, which is one of the most outstanding vampire stories ever created. If we compare these two writings, there can be found some similarities, which support the presumption, that *Carmilla* had inspired Stoker in writing *Dracula*. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 150)

*Liška* (2005) writes about another possible way, Stoker could have been inspired. He describes his journey to United States, where one night, he had a nightmare about horrific apparition. Stoker defined it as a walking corpse, which had left its grave. After he returned to Britain, he was so enthusiastic and started to prepare himself to write a horror story, where a phantom of his nightmare, should have a major role. We are not familiarized with the exact terms of the nightmare, so we do not know, what Stoker really dreamed about. But it is a fact, that after this experience, Stoker started studying legends about vampirism. It brought him to a story of 15<sup>th</sup> century Wallachian tyrant, called Vlad III. *Dracula*, also known as Vlad Tepes – Impaler. He put together characters of the being in his nightmare with the real historical figure of Vlad III, set the plot in Transylvania and his story had suddenly a key concept of a great novel. (Liška, 2005, p. 7,8,9)

There is probably no accurate opinion on how Stoker could get inspiration from. Last but not least, there is another opinion, in *Joshi (2011)*, who says, that Stoker had almost no knowledge about the real Dracula – Vlad Tepes, so he could not be inspired just this person. He came across the name Dracula in *An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia* written by William Wilkinson. Stoker started to write and had even another name chosen, which suited for the character of his vampire, and it was Count Wampyr. But when he found out, that the name “Dracula” means “devil” in Romania, he was amazed by it and used it for his novel. (Joshi, 2011, p. 81)

### **3.2. Dracula (1897)**

This novel, regarded to be the headstone of vampire stories ever written, and which has become a model for many movie adaptations during 20<sup>th</sup> century, was published in London by Archibald Constable and Company in 1897. (Bunson, 1993, p. 73) Stoker used narrative form of presenting the story through a journal entries, a series of letters and newspaper cuttings. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 153) The story begins with Jonathan Harker, a young lawyer, who is travelling from England to the castle of Count Dracula, situated in the remote Carpathian Mountains. The purpose of Harker's trip was to discuss some business with Dracula about his real estate transactions in England. Dracula appears to be a very good and kind host.

Nevertheless, after some time, Harker, as a guest of Count Dracula, realizes that he is imprisonment in Dracula's castle without the possibility of leaving of his free will. Meanwhile, Dracula is contriving plans to leave the castle and set out on the road to London. As time goes on, Harker starts to disclose the secret aspect of Dracula's nocturnal life. Once, he tries to escape from the castle, even he was told not to go out of his room at night. During his attempt to sneak out, he is assaulted by three female vampires, who are meant to be brides of Dracula. Harker is rescued by Count Dracula himself. Eventually, he manages to escape after all and the story moves back to England.

The plot continues thanks to the letters addressed to Mina Murray, Jonathan Harker's fiancé. Meanwhile, Dracula is on his way to London, sailing on the ship Demeter. As soon as Dracula meddles in inhabitants of London, death begins to widen in its streets. Lucy Westerna, a faithful friend of Mina Murray, becomes one of Dracula's victims. Even though, Dr. Seward, a psychologist, tries to help her with the aid of blood transfusions, but it is not enough and Lucy eventually dies. There are uncanny circumstances, which might have some continuity with the death of young Lucy and therefore, Dr. Seward calls in a Dutch specialist on paranormal diseases, Abraham Van Helsing. After evaluation of the whole situation, he suggests, Lucy was

attacked and bitten by a vampire and she has become one of them. Therefore, Van Helsing insists Lucy must be destroyed. He sneaks in her tomb while Lucy sleeps and let one of hers suitors to stab a stake through her heart. Then they cut off her head and use garlic to fill her mouth. Dr. Van Helsing gathers information, which could lead them to Count Dracula. The investigation looks promising but one of Dr. Seward's patients, Renfield, who is under the influence of Count, helps Dracula to get into the asylum, where he gets the chance to take control of Mina. She starts being sick and Van Helsing conceives suspicion, she is turning into a vampire and uses her as a bait to track Dracula down back to Transylvania. They reach him and destroy him. Dracula turns to dust and ashes, the curse is broken and Mina is saved. (Wikipedia, 2014)

Dracula met with a success almost immediately. At that time, there were a lot of tabloids, newspapers and magazines, which placed the reviews about this just published novel in their publications. Every one of them had their own opinion and wrote about it.

A British tabloid, *The Daily Mail* (June 1, 1897) wrote about the novel's chapters, that it is "*written and strung together with very considerable art and cunning*". (Joshi, 2011, p. 82). On the other hand *The Athenaeum magazine* (June 26, 1897) criticized it for missing "*constructive art in the higher literary sense ... at times like a mere series of grotesquely incredible events.*" (Joshi, 2011, p. 82) When Bram Stoker died, the *London Times* published an obituary, which mentioned his ability to write a "*particular lurid and creepy kind of fiction.*" (Joshi, 2011, p. 82)

The popularity, which Dracula obtained along 20<sup>th</sup> century, is not thanks to the book, but a countless number of movie and theatre adaptations. The first movie adaptation, the audience could see, was a German horror film, *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Graunes* (translated as *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*), released in 1922. (Joshi, 2011, p. 82)

## 4. NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORROR (NOSFERATU, 1922)

The black and white silent vampire film *Nosferatu* was filmed during the tide of expressionistic movement in Germany and it is the first film based on *Dracula* (1897).

*Nosferatu* was directed by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau in 1921 and was released to silver screen the year after. Filming *Nosferatu*, Murnau had his own vision how to make this film more scary and overwhelming for the audience, therefore he did not follow the exact screenplay of the novel by Stoker. (Štěpán, 1998, p. 55) Murnau and screenwriter Henrik Galle, who participated in the filming of *Nosferatu*, wanted to avoid paying any license fee to Stoker legacy. That is why the title was changed to *Nosferatu* and the names of all the leading characters were changed, as well as locations. The plot was set in Bremen, Germany, instead of London. The main character, *Dracula*, is changed into Graf Orlock, played by Max Schreck. (Joshi, 2011, p. 224) Graf Orlock's appearance is very odd and his character is different, but he fits in the Eastern European vision of vampire more, than Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. In the film is portrayed as a figure with "*a bald head, long, claw-like fingernails...fangs protruded from the very front of his mouth, like a rat's teeth.*" He wears a long coat and his gait is stiff. (Melton, 2011, p. 501) In *Nosferatu*, the same characters as in *Dracula* perform, but their names are changed. The character of Jonathan Harker is renamed Hutter, his wife Mina Murray is renamed Ellen Hutter, R. N. Renfield is Knock, Hutter's boss, and the professor Abraham Van Helsing is Bulwar. To be it more realistic, the plot was set in 1838, which is the year the plague actually broke out in the city of Bremen. (Melton, 2011, p. 501,502)

The story begins with young office worker Hutter, who is sent by his boss Knock, to meet Graf Orlock in his castle in Transylvania. He is due to discuss the sale of a house in Bremen, Germany. As he arrives to Transylvania, he is warned by local people not to set out on a journey after dark. So he pays heed to what people say and passes the night at a hostel. In his modest room, he starts reading *The Book of the Vampires*, that warns about a danger of vampire, Nosferatu, but pays no attention to it, yet. The next day, in the morning, he is setting out in a coach to the place where he is left alone, because the driver does not want to go any further, as he believes, it is the place of phantoms. *“And when he had crossed the bridge, the phantoms came to meet him”* (Nosferatu, 1922) A coach with mysterious driver waits for him to take him to Graf Orlock’s castle. Hutter is meeting Orlock, who seems quite strange in his appearance and manners as well. The following day, he wakes up to a lonesome castle and notices punctures on his neck. Afterwards, Hutter is writing letter to his beloved wife Ellen, to inform her she has no reason to be afraid of him. In the evening that day, Graf Orlock signs a real estate contract, which includes the old mansion in Bremen, while he notices a locket with the portrait of Hutter’s wife and is amazed by her. Later that night, Graf Orlock sneaks in the Hutter’s bedroom to drink his blood.

In the very same time in Bremen, Ellen suddenly wakes up and cries out Hutter’s name and then faints. After waking up the next day, Hutter finds Orlock sleeping in his coffin. Before he manages to escape from the castle, Graf Orlock is already on his way to the old house in Bremen, he bought. He also sends his coffins filled with the exact earth, he was buried in and he travels on the boat, during which he kills every member of its crew. Hutter escaped from the castle, but he hurt himself and ends up in hospital.

Meantime in Germany, professor Bulwar is doing an experiment with a carnivorous plant called “the vampire of the vegetable kingdom”, in front of his students. Hutter’s boss, Knock, was under the influence of Graf Orlock, from afar while he was still in his castle,

as a result of it, Knock goes mad and is set in a sanatorium. And Ellen is devoutly waiting for her husband's return. When Graf Orlock arrives in the city of Bremen, the plague suddenly break out because of all the rats Orlock brought along and controls them. Finally, Hutter succeeds to get back to his wife, despite all obstacles and he has the book, he was reading in the hostel, with him. Nevertheless, Ellen is forbidden to read it, but she cannot resist and starts reading. *"Only a woman can break his frightful spell- a woman pure in heart- who will offer her blood freely to Nosferatu and will keep the vampire by her side until after the cock has crowed"*. (Nosferatu, 1922) Ellen is resolved to risk her life for the good and safety of her beloved husband and the people of Bremen.

That fateful night, Graf Orlock pays a visit to Ellen's bedroom to drink her blood. He is attached to her neck until the Sun comes out and he turns into smoke. Hutter tries to save his wife, but she dies in his arms. Thanks to this sacrifice, the city was saved. (Melton, 2011, p. 502 ; Nosferatu film, 1922)



*Nosferatu, Eine Symphonie des Graunes*, after its premiere, met with good public acceptance. But few weeks after it was released, the widow of Bram Stoker, Florence, sued director F. W. Murnau, that he used her husband's book as a model for the movie, without her permission, and did not pay for the copyright. She wanted all the copies to be destroyed and never presented again. The lawsuit continued for several years. Florence Stoker eventually won the case. Although, she demanded all the copies to be destroyed, some of them passed on and after Universal Pictures bought the rights of *Dracula*, it led to the permission of showing *Nosferatu* again. In 1960', there was one version presented, in which all the names were changed back to those in the novel *Dracula*. (Melton, 2011, p. 502)

Nowadays, *Nosferatu* is considered to be turning point of horror genre and has received a lot of praise from critics. Max Schreck, who was assigned to the leading role, and his interpretation of Graf Orlock, has probably the biggest contribution, the movie is so credible and authentic. There have been enormous number of adaptations based on *Dracula* novel, but Max Schreck will always be linked to his Graf Orlock character. (Adamovič a kol., 1994, p. 106) His successor is no less known Bella Lugosi, who had the chance to be the first impersonator of Count *Dracula*, directed by Tod Browning in 1931, based on the eponymous novel *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.

## 5. DRACULA (1931)

Making this adaptation was managed without any legal wrangling, because the studio Universal Pictures bought the film rights of Dracula from Stoker's widow, Florence Stoker. She had a bit high expectations for the asking price, but eventually, she sold them for the amount, that was acceptable in favor of both sides. The studio then hired Tod Browning as a director of the movie. (Melton, 2011, p. 208) The former star of the horror genre, Lon Chaney, was the first choice of Tod Browning to play the role of Count Dracula. But, because of Chaney's sudden death, the director had to find someone else. Eventually, the choice was made, and at that time, not very known Hungarian actor, Bela Lugosi got the leading role. He already had the previous experience with this role, when he had played Count Dracula in a theatrical adaptation. In the sequel, this choice has payed off. (*Adamovič a kol., 1994, p. 50*)

There is obviously no need to introduce the plot of the most widely known vampire novel in detail, since this adaptation from the year 1931 was created just with slight differences. Predominantly in the second half of the movie, where Dracula is not on a way back to Transylvania, but he is destroyed already in London. (*Adamovič a kol, 1994, p. 50*) In the beginning, there is young solicitor Renfield, not Harker, who is travelling to Transylvania to Count Dracula, who wants to buy a Carfax Abbey mansion in London. During his stay at Count Dracula's castle, Renfield is bitten by Count himself and makes Renfield his servant, who eventually goes mad. Together, they are travelling to London on a ship, and Dracula feeds on the crew.

After they reach England, Renfield is found as the only person, who survived this voyage. Dracula settles in abandoned Carfax Abbey, which, by chance, is adjoining with sanatorium of Dr. Seward. Count is interested in Mina Harker and stalks her. One night he carries her off and drinks her blood. She is found by her maid. In the meantime, Renfield escapes from the sanatorium. Later that night, Dracula walks into Dr. Seward residence and talks with Professor

Van Helsing. Dracula is emphatic about the fact, that Mina belongs to him. Van Helsing promises that he flattens Dracula's mansion and puts a stake through his heart. Dracula takes Mina to the Abbey and Van Helsing and Harker follow him, as well as Renfield. Dracula thinks his minion Renfield betrayed him, and therefore he kills him. Because it is dawning, Dracula has to hide in his coffin. Van Helsing uses this opportunity and impales Dracula with a wooden stake. Harker finds Mina and the curse is broken so they leave together, while Van Helsing stays. (Joshi, 2011, p. 86; Dracula 1931)

After the premiere, in February 1931, there were mixed receptions from various publishers. According to the Los Angeles Times, it was a "*freak show – a curiosity without the possibility of wide appeal*". The magnificent advertising campaign had better success than the movie itself. Even though, the start did not turn out well, the audience was eventually impressed. It was the most profitable movie of the year, and it is certain, it has influenced vampire films of all time. (Melton, 2011, p. 209)

The movie had the potential to integrate horror films among one of the major genres in Hollywood film industry. It was the first film, made under the auspices of Universal Pictures, which falls within a series of horror films. (Joshi, 2011, p. 85)

## 5.1. Bela Lugosi

The biggest star, Bela Lugosi, had among his colleagues and people who knew him very odd reputation. In his personal life, he was surrounded by people, whose life was as mysterious as his. His love life includes the scandal with actress Clara Bow, who, after their common vacation in her summer house, proclaimed, Lugosi is a sadist and a monster. It happened when he had engagement in the play *Dracula* on Broadway. So before all the glory, film adaptation of *Dracula* brought him the fame. Despite this, there was one woman, Bridget Brighton, who was appearing next to his side and was the love of his life. They had quite special relationship, because she was probably the only woman, who was not afraid of him. Bela's foreign origin, charisma and scandals, which went along with his life, had the influence, how people perceived him. (Štěpán, 2008, p. 69-80) He lived in a lonely house, wearing *Dracula's* black cape. His wish was to be buried in it. He lived like *Dracula*. Bela Lugosi, unforgettable Count *Dracula*, died in 1956. (Adamovič a spol, 1994, p. 50)

## **6. HAMMER FILMS PRODUCTION**

In the 1950' until the 1970', the British film company, Hammer Films Production, started the popularity of horror movies. The most famous vampire movie, created under the auspices of Hammer Films, was *The Horror of Dracula* (1958) starring Christopher Lee as the Count Dracula. His Dracula performance is considered to be one of the top vampires in the history of cinema. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 170)

## **7. BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (1992)**

The most faithful adaptation of Stoker's novel is just the one directed by one of the top directors of all time, Francis Ford Coppola in 1992, where Gary Oldman played the Count. Coppola was the first director, who risked to make an adaptation of Dracula, without any substantial interferences. The film is freely based on Stoker's novel, but Coppola preserved a lot of narration and original dialogues. (Joshi, 2011, p. 21)

The story opens with Vlad IV. Dracula, Romanian ruler and warrior, who is about to fight against his enemies, the Turks. He is victorious, but before he manages to get back to his beloved wife Elisabeta, she receives a letter, with the incorrect information about Dracula's death. She cannot bear it and commits suicide. When Dracula returns, the priest tells him, she cannot be buried in the sacred ground, because she has taken her life. He renounces and curses the God and sells his soul to eternal vampire life. The plot moves about 400 hundred years forward, in the year 1897. Jonathan Harker, sets off a journey to Carpathian mountains in Transylvania, to sell the Count Dracula the property in London. Dracula persuades Jonathan to write Mina, that he is staying in Transylvania for a month as Dracula's guest and to tutor him English custom. But as

Dracula leaves for England on a ship, Jonathan stays in the castle and cannot leave. When he arrives to London, the only aim he wants to achieve is to get into the presence of Jonathan's wife, Mina, who reminds him of his death wife. At first, he seduces Mina's best friend, Lucy. He turns her into a vampire. Dr. Seward calls in a specialist, professor Abraham Van Helsing. According to him, there is no chance, Lucy can be saved, therefore she is impaled with a stake and they cut her head off. Meanwhile, Dracula visits Mina and she confesses, she remembers her previous life as his wife Elisabeta. On the other hand, Dracula admits, he killed her friend Lucy. Despite this, she urges him to change her, so he begins transforming her into a vampire. Van Helsing uses her, to get the information, that Dracula is heading home to Transylvania. At the end, a fight takes place and Dracula is defeated. Mina gets the last chance to be with him. In the chapel, where he cursed the God, he turns back into his younger look. He asks her to give him peace. They kiss for the last time and Mina stabs a knife through his chest and decapitates him. The last shot is devoted to the fresco of Vlad and his wife Elisabeta heading to Heaven. (Adamovič a spol., 1994, p. 51; Bram Stoker's Dracula, 1992)

This adaptation is far more scandalous, than its previous adaptations. Francis Ford Coppola used love, sex and madness all together to make the film provoking in every possible way it could be. He refused to make it as a classic gothic horror movie and he was successful in this attempt. He distinguished this piece of work from other adaptations. (Adamovič a spol., 1994, p. 51) Nevertheless, Coppola did not meet with positive reception from the audience. The audience was confused thanks to the title given to this movie. They expected, the movie is adhered to Stoker's novel. (S. T. Joshi, 2011, p. 21) The movie had a magnificent advertising campaign, which included even souvenirs, comic books, trading cards, T-shirts, jewelry, posters and computer games. Despite all the various reviews, the movie was surprising for the audience, when it opened in Bucharest in July 1993. The Coppola's adaptation belongs to the one of the most memorable of all time. (Melton, 2011, p. 76)

## **8. INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE (1994)**

The 1976 novel, *Interview with the vampire*, is the first published book of a series, *The Vampire Chronicles*, written by Anne Rice. It is considered one of the most popular vampire books of the second half of the twentieth century. (Bunson, 1993, p. 134) The film adaptation, based on the book, was released in 1994, directed by Neil Jordan, and starring Tom Cruise as Lestat de Lioncourt, Brad Pitt as his fledgling, Louis, Kirsten Dunst as their adoptive daughter Claudia and Antonio Banderas as Armand. (Melton, 2011, p. 376)

The plot begins in San Francisco, where Louis, a 200 years old vampire, meets a reporter to tell him the story of his “life”. At first, the reporter has doubts, about Louis confession, he is a vampire. But it did not last very long time to believe him, since Louis proves it. Louis starts to retell the story when he became a vampire and goes back to the past. It happened in 1791 in Louisiana. He was a master of a plantation, who had lost his wife in childbirth. He was desperate and was resolved to follow them. Since then, he did not care about anything. One night in a tavern, Lestat is watching him. He pursues him and bites him in order to turn him into a vampire. He offers him eternal life without any pain. Louis accepts it and he becomes Lestat’s companion. But very soon, he realizes, that it is not what he imagined it to be. He is sickens of Lestat’s ignorance towards human life. Louis does everything he can to survive, without killing innocent people and therefore he lives on animal blood. Unlike Louis, Lestat is merciless and has no problem to kill for his own satisfaction. Slaves, working on Louis’ plantation, are planning to destroy their master and his devilish friend. Louis sets his mansion on fire. They have to move to New Orleans.

Lestat still insists Louis to take human lives, but he resists. The plague breaks out and during Louis' wandering, he runs into a young girl, whose mother died because of the plague. Lestat realizes, she could be the reason, Louis would not leave him so he turns Claudia into a vampire and creates a "family". Lestat teaches her how to live and act as a vampire. As years past, Claudia realizes she is trapped in her child body and cannot grow old. She blames Lestat, he turned her into a vampire. She poisons him, and with Louis' help, they get rid of the body. They both prepare to leave for Europe to search for the other of their kind. One night, when they are waiting for the boat, Lestat shows up and they leave him in a burning house and take a ship to Europe.

They end up in Paris, where they encounter a troupe of vampires, performing at the Theatre of the Vampires. The oldest vampire of this group, Armand, is fascinated by Louis and wants him as his companion. Claudia is afraid, Louis will abandon her, so she asks him to turn Madeleine into a vampire, a woman who has lost her child, to be her new companion. The group of vampires find out, Claudia was almost successful in killing their friend Lestat, and abduct Louis, Claudia and Madeleine. The women are locked in a room, where they are about to meet the Sun. Louis is imprisoned in the coffin and immured in a wall. Armand sets him free and Louis has to face the look on Claudia's dead body. He wants a revenge, so he sets fire in the theater and kills most of the vampires, as they sleep in their coffins. Armand offers him the possibility, he could stay by his side, once again. But Louis refuses, because he knows, that it is Armand's fault, Claudia is dead, since he plotted it, just to have Louis to himself. He comes back to America and explores the world alone. In a few years, he returns to New Orleans, where he finds Lestat, who wants Louis to join him again, but he refuses and leaves.



At this point, Louis finishes the interview and the reporter is so amazed and admits he is resolved to become a vampire, just to have the same power as Louis, and to experience great things. Louis is outraged and tries to explain him, he did not understand anything, what Louis was telling him, and rather vanishes. The reporter drives away, when suddenly, Lestat appears, attacks him and takes control over the car. Full of reporter's blood, Lestat proclaims his famous sentence, he is going to give him the choice, he never had, in musical accompaniment of Guns N' Roses cover of The Rolling Stones' song "Sympathy for the Devil".

## **8.1. The Interview's vampires**

Interview with the vampire differs from the Dracula in many ways. The first one, is vampires desire to create families and be with the others of their kind. It could be said, they are afraid of being alone. As Louis, the main protagonist, said during his interview, crucifixes have no power against them, as well as a stake through the heart. On the other hand, coffins are necessary, but a vampire can also survive without them, as we can see in the film. Interview's vampires do not have the ability to change their appearances, but they have special gifts, and everyone of them has its own, for instance Lestat, who can read people's thoughts. But it takes a lot of time to learn how to use it. They have the power to influence people what to do. They are strong, have fast reflexes and are incredibly fast and see themselves in mirrors. The one thing, which did not change, is the need to drink humans blood, but there is a possibility to feed on animal blood. Blood is also necessary at transformation into a vampire. A vampire drinks human's blood and afterwards, the human has to drink vampire's blood.

In comparison to Stoker's Dracula, they have quite more different appearance. They are already closer to vampires, represented in nowadays modern movies. They are beautiful, have pale skin and fierce eyes. They give people the impression of magical creatures. Their clothes do not include black long cape as well as the plot does not take place in the old castle in some remote and isolated part of the country.

Anne Rice wrote the screenplay for the movie. After some changes, the role of Lestat was given to Tom Cruise and Rice criticized this selection and was not satisfied with Tom Cruise as her vampire Lestat. Nevertheless, after she saw the completed film, she proclaimed that "*from the moment he appeared, Tom was Lestat for me*" (Angelfire, 1994, online) Eventually, the film was after all accepted very positively and was nominated for two Academy Awards. Its popularity has increased the interest in the Vampire Chronicles series. (Wikipedia, 2014, online; Joshi, 2011, p. 170)

## **9. THE VAMPIRE OF THE THIRD MILLENIUM**

This part presents the most influential works, where vampires have the leading roles. The first one is the most popular vampire film series within ten years, Twilight Saga. The next mentioned are two most successful vampire television show of all time.

### **9.1. The Twilight Saga**

The year 2005, was turning point of the new millennium, because the first novel from the Twilight series was published that year. Success of the first book was followed by three other books of the series, New Moon (2006), Eclipse (2007), and Breaking Dawn (2008). The first novel waited for its film adaptation by the year 2008 and has become world-wide successful immediately. Remaining books did not wait for the film adaptation not much longer. (Montagueová, 2013, p. 164) The Twilight Saga: New Moon was released in 2009, the third adaptation, The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, year after, and the fourth book was divided into two films. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 was released in 2011 and The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 in 2012. (Wikipedia, 2014, online)

### 9.1.1. Twilight (2008)

Twilight is directed by Catherine Hardwicke and the movie stars, Kristin Stewart and Robert Pattinson, play the main two characters of the movie, Bella Swan and Edward Cullen.

The movie begins with Isabella Swan, known as Bella, leaving her hometown Phoenix in Arizona, to move in her dad's Charlie, to the rainy little town of Forks. Her first day at new high school is a little bit insecure. Nevertheless, she blends in and makes friends. At school canteen, she sees Cullen siblings for the first time, but Edward captures her attention the most.

Later that day, she is almost crushed by a van in the school parking lot, but Edward saves her by stopping the van with his bare hand. Things start to be even weirder, since Edward saves Bella once again and then he admits her, he can read people's mind, except hers.

Meantime in Forks happened some mysterious murders. Bella does a research, because she cannot stop thinking of Edward and his weird behavior. She finds out the answer, to what extent is it unbelievable, but she wants to hear it from Edward himself.

Finally, he confess to being a vampire. *"So the lion fell in love with the lamb."*

They fell in love for each other. Edward invites Bella to meet his vampire family, who feed off animal blood and call themselves vegetarians - Carlisle, Esme, Emmett, Rosalie and Alice with Jasper.

Three nomadic vampires, Laurent, James and Victoria, show up on stage and it puts Bella in danger, because they do feed off humans.

The Cullens invites Bella to play baseball with them, but the game is disturbed by those nomadic vampires, who wander around. One of them, James, scents Bella's human odour and wants to attack her, but the Cullens protect her. Edward sends Bella to Phoenix. James unfortunately finds out and lures Bella to a ballet school. James managed to bite Bella but Edward saves her. She recovers and Edward takes her to the prom.

Bella asks Edward to turn her into her vampire, so she could stay with him forever. He refuses, only because, he appreciates her life so much he would not be able to take it from her.  
(Twilight, 2008)

### **9.1.2. New Moon (2009)**

The movie New Moon of the Twilight series was based on the second novel by Stephenie Meyer and directed by Chris Weitz in 2009.

The story begins with Bella's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Cullens want to surprise her, so they prepare a birthday party. During unwrapping presents, Bella cuts her finger, which leads to a frightening attack by Jasper. Fortunately, Edward stops him before he could hurt Bella. After this incident, Edward thinks he puts her into a danger and she would be safer without him. He tells Bella, she does not belong to his world, ends their relationship and all the Cullen family leave Forks. Bella bears this separation very badly. She is heartbroken and feels lifeless.

She hangs out with Jessica, while she sees a group of guys on motorcycles. This situation reminds her the night, when Edward saved her from an assault. She finds out, that all the dangerous situation, she puts herself into, evoke Edward's image, which tells her not to do anything reckless.

She spends more time with her friend Jacob. He comforts her and makes it easier to get over losing Edward. But Jacob suddenly starts avoiding her and Bella finally finds out he is a werewolf and a member of a wolf pack.

Victoria comes after Bella, and wants revenge, because of James' death. As Bella always thinks of Edward, she decides to jump off a cliff. Thanks to a couple of misunderstandings, Edward gets an information, Bella has killed herself. He travels to Italy, to provoke the Volturi, the royalty of vampire world.

Bella finds out and rushes to Italy. She gets there just in time to stop him, before he would show himself to the crowd at high noon. One of the Volturi, Aro, wants to speak with Edward and Bella. He is fascinated, that Bella is immune to all vampire powers. Aro determines she must be either killed or turned into a vampire. Alice interrupts it and says, she had a vision of Bella becoming a vampire, so Aro lets them go.

Back in Forks, the Cullens vote for Bella becoming a vampire. Later that day, Jacob reminds Edward their treaty, that the Cullens do not bite or even turn any humans. The movie ends with Edward telling Bella, he has one condition to turn her himself - she must marry him first, before he will change her. (New Moon, 2009)

### **9.1.3. Eclipse (2010)**

Director's chair has been replaced again. David Slade took charge of direction.

In Seattle, young boy Riley is attacked and bitten by Victoria. She starts to create an army of newborn vampires with him, to revenge James' death.

Meantime in Forks, Bella tells Edward, she is not ready to get married so young. Edward is adamant and insist, he will turn Bella, after she marries him. Charlie, Bella's father, investigate the disappearance of Riley and Edward conceives a suspicion that it has something to do with the newborn vampires. Jacob comes to warn Bella, Victoria is around. Bella insist she wants to spend some time with Jacob, and Edward does not have to worry. During one her visits, Jacob confess, he is in love with Bella and tries to kiss her.

Alice arranges a graduation party and Jacob and his pack friends show up. Alice has a vision, that the Seattle newborn army is coming to Forks. Jacob overhears it and he suggests that werewolves should join the Cullens to help them fight against the army..

Couple of nights before the battle, Edward and Bella have the Cullens' house just to themselves That night, Bella realizes, that Edward is the only one, whom she wants to spend the eternity with and accepts his proposal to marry him.

Edward and Bella are going camping in the mountains to hide her from the newborns. The battle is starting, but Victoria catches Edward's scent, and knows Bella is with him. They are fighting and Edward kills her, while one of the wolves kills Riley. The Cullens and the wolves defeated the army, although Jacob is hurt. Some of the Volturi are coming to deal with the newborns. Jane notices, Bella is still human. Bella assures her that the date of her transformation has been set.

In the end, Bella and Edward talk about their wedding and Bella makes an arrangement of the things she wants to do. First get married, then make love and finally turn into a vampire.



She tells Edward how complete and strong she feels when she is around him. They finally decide, it is time to inform Bella's dad Charlie about their engagement. (Eclipse, 2010)

### **9.1.4. Breaking Dawn – Part 1**

The wedding preparations are going on in full swing. During the celebrations, Jacob shows up. They are going to spend their honeymoon on Isle Esme, Brazilian island, which Esme got from Carlisle as a gift. As Edward promised Bella, they have sexual intercourse for the first time. The next morning, Bella wakes up with the bruises marks on her body.

After two weeks of their honeymoon, Bella discovers, she is pregnant. Edward is shocked and tries to get back to Forks immediately.

Back in Forks, Bella calls her dad, she is sick, but does not have to worry. Jacob finds out and rushes to the Cullen's house. Carlisle does not know how to help her, Alice cannot even see Bella's future anymore. Edward asks Jacob to talk to Bella and try to change her mind.

Jacob informs the rest of his pack, they agree to kill Bella. Jacob opposes and leaves the pack. He comes back at the Cullen's to keep Bella save. As the baby grows. Bella starts to waste away.

As the last chance, she starts drinking human blood Soon after, Bella gives a painful birth to her daughter. Renesmee. Bella is dying, and to save her life, Edward has to inject his venom to her heart, which transform her into a vampire. Nothing happens and Bella seems to be dead. Jacob is resolved, he must kill the baby. But when he sees Renesmee for the first time, he imprints on her.

The wolf pack hear of Bella's death and they are heading to the Cullen's house, to get rid of the baby. Jacob stops the fight by telling them, they cannot harm her, because he has imprinted on her. Bella has a slight pulse, and everybody is waiting, when her heart ceases and she wakes up as a newborn vampire. (Breaking Dawn – Part 1, 2011)

### **9.1.5. Breaking Dawn – Part 2**

Bella wakes up as the newborn vampire and meets her daughter for the first time. When Bella finds out, Jacob imprinted into Renesmee, she is furious.

Jacob still stays at the Cullen's house to keep an eye on Renesmee. Meantime, Bella is planning to tell him, Bella did not make it and afterwards to move from Forks. Jacob goes to tell him she has recovered.

Renesmee is growing very fast. One day in the woods, Irina, one of the Cullens cousins sees Renesmee and thinks she is an immortal child. Therefore, she goes to Volturi to announce it.

Alice has a vision about Volturi and Irina's coming for them. The only thing, that could convince the Volturi, Renesmee is not an immortal, is to gather as many witnesses as they can. Alice and Jasper depart the town, leaving a note, that the Volturi will come.

They begin to search for their friend to witness. They come from all the corners of the world to support the Cullens.

Bella finds out what her gift is. She has powerful shield, which protects other from mental attacks. The Cullen's witnesses agree to stand behind them in battle.

The Volturi are coming with the Guard to confront the Cullens and their witnesses . Renesmee shows Aro, how she was born, which surprises him. The Volturi execute Irina immediately for misinforming them. Alice and Jasper come to show the Volturi the proof, that Renesmee is not dangerous. Nevertheless, Aro wants to destroy the Cullens and their allies. Alice shows Aro her vision about how this fight would end.

Two witnesses, found by Alice and Jasper, tell the Volturi their story, proving, they are actually half vampire and half human. After this discovery, the Volturi leave in peace.

The last scene is dedicated to Edward and Bella, sitting in the meadow, where Bella allows Edward to have a look in her mind, showing him the moments of her and him together.

(Breaking Dawn – Part 2, 2012)

The whole saga was adapted into a film by Summit Entertainment. When the first movie has come to the screen, it become worldwide successful. Twilight, as a series, received many movie awards.

## **9.2. Twilight's vampires**

The look of vampires in the Twilight series suggests, that they are different. They have very pale but perfect skin. Their eyes change according to whether they are fed or not. We could see Edward's black eyes and impatience, when he first meets Bella. After he shows up at school later on, his eyes are gold and brown, because he has fed. The gold and brown color of eyes implies, he fed on animal blood. Vampire who feed on humans have their eyes dark red.

Direct sunlight causes, that vampire's skin shines like covered in diamonds.

As for their abilities, their movement is very fast. They are able to lift incredibly heavy objects. Their senses are heightened, so they can perceive far better than ordinary humans.

When their transformation is complete, they do not age, since then. But there is possibility of killing them. The key to killing a vampire is to torn out their limbs and set them on fire. (Meyer, 2011, p. 62-66)

## 10. TRUE BLOOD

True blood is successful vampire television show, produced and created by Alan Ball. The series is adaptation of The Southern Vampire Mysteries, written by Charlaine Harris.

The story takes place mostly in Bon Temps, the fictional small town in Louisiana. Sookie Stackhouse (Anna Paquin) is a telepath waitress and a fairy, as we learn later on. She works at Merlotte's Bar and Grill. whose owner, Sam Merlotte (Sam Trammell) loves Sookie. Sam, surprisingly, is a shapeshifter and tries to keep his secret in private. One night, when Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer) enters the bar, Sookie realizes, she cannot hear his thoughts. There is an explanation for this. Bill is 173 years old vampire, who remembers the Civil war. It does not take very long and she falls in love with him. After a series of murders, taking place in sleepy Bon Temps, Sookie is introduced to Eric Northman (Alexander Skarsgård), the Sheriff of Area 5, the owner of bar Fangtasia in Shreveport and especially, a thousand-year-old Viking vampire. Sookie starts to be associate with the vampire community, who survives on artificial blood, called True blood, invented by Japanese scientists. Since then, she helps them to investigate their arrangements and she gets involved in very dangerous situation. It would not get along without a love triangle, where Sookie, Bill and Eric are the main protagonists of it.

## 10.1. True blood's vampires

True blood's vampires are not distinguishable from ordinary humans, They have pale skin, because they have no bodily functions and their blood does not flow through their body. They have fangs, which they can extend and retract. Their fangs are automatically extended, when they are feeding, excited, see blood and even when they are sexually aroused. Their appearance does not change, since they were turned. It is impossible for vampire women to become pregnant or to impregnate human females on the contrary.

Crying vampires do not weep tears, but they expel blood. They can live without breathing as well. They cannot digest human food and so they drink either human or synthetic blood. Their blood have special effects on humans, mainly hallucinations and sexual attraction. The side effect of drinking vampire blood is emotional bond between a vampire and a human.

They are immortal and do not age, unless someone kills them. One of their weaknesses is they can be infected by hepatitis D and V.

They are very strong, incredibly fast, have stronger senses than humans, and they have some kind of healing factor, which allows them to heal themselves. Their special power is, they can glamour and hypnotize power. In order to get into a house, they have to get the invitation by the house owner. (VampireWiki, 2012, online)

In the show, vampires use an expression *True death*, which refers to their total destruction. Causes, which could lead to *True death* are meeting the sun, fire, exsanguinations, decapitation, staking and hepatitis V, mentioned above. (VampireWiki, 2012, online)

If someone stakes a wooden object through their heart, they explode into greasy and glairy substance. (Pevnost, 6/2013, p. 16)

*“In order to create a vampire, a human must be drained of their blood by a vampire and the blood lost needs to be replaced by some of the vampire's blood.”* (VampireWiki, 2012, online)  
They must sleep together in the ground until the newborn vampire rises the following night.

## **10.2. Critical receptions**

Every aspect, from the perfect choice of actors, fantastic script and thrilling plot, made this series very popular. This statement also supports the fact, that True blood was nominated and won a lot of awards. Two of them belong to the main protagonists, Anna Paquin (Sookie) for Best Actress in a Drama and Stephen Moyer (Bill) for Best Actor. The series itself won an award for one of the 10 best TV programs.

Critical reception has been positive more or less. An American daily newspaper, *USA Today*, qualified it as *“sexy, witty, and unabashedly peculiar, True Blood is a blood-drenched Southern Gothic romantic parable set in a world where vampires are out and about and campaigning for equal rights. Part mystery, part fantasy, part comedy, and all wildly imaginative exaggeration”* (Wikipedia, 2014, online)

There have been six seasons release already, since the year 2008, when the first season was released. The premiere of the seventh season is scheduled on June, 2014.

## 11. THE VAMPIRE DIARIES

The Vampire diaries is an American supernatural TV show created by Kevin Williamson and Julie Plec. The series is based on the books, written by L. J. Smith.

The story takes place in Mystic Falls, Virginia, where Elena Gilbert (Nina Dobrev) and her younger brother Jeremy (Steven R. McQueen) live with their aunt, after their parents passed away during a car accident.

While Elena tries to deal with her lost, there is her best friend Bonnie, to help her to get over it. The mysterious guy, Stefan Salvatore (Paul Wesley), starts to attend the local high school. When Elena and Stefan meet for the first time, their attraction for each other grows since then. But she does not know, Stefan is a vampire.

Mysterious attacks spread around Mystic Falls and no one knows what is behind it. Damon (Ian Somerhalder), Stefan's older brother, suddenly appears in town. They have not seen each other for over 15 years, because of their history. Damon has never understood Stefan's behavior as a vampire, who does not want to harm people. But he pretty much understands why he is so interested in Elena. As the plot progresses, we find out, that Elena is a doppelganger of one girl, whom Stefan and Damon loved very long time ago. As the series goes on, Elena finds herself, she has feelings for Damon as well. It leads to a love triangle between Elena, Stefan and Damon. (The vampire diaries, 2009, online)



## 11.1. Mystic Fall's vampires

These vampire do not need to be afraid of garlic, crucifixes or even the Sun. They have special rings to protect them against the Sun. They can feed on human or animal blood. They do not need coffins to sleep in. They can overhear people talking from afar and are very fast and strong. To control human dreams and influence people's mind are their special abilities. They cannot enter a house before someone invites them in. They can be killed by a stake and there is a special herb, vervain, which is poisonous for them, almost like a garlic for the original vampire characters.

The instruction to become a vampire are very clear. A vampire has to drink human's blood, then a human has to drink a lot of theirs and afterwards, they have to be killed to wake up as a newborn. (VampireWiki, 2012, online)

The series does not follow the books exactly. There are names, places and some of the storylines, which has remained, but the series differs from the books quite a lot.

The series has became popular, especially among teenagers, The creators of the show managed to do something almost impossible. They created a series, which is far better and successful than the books. (Pevnost, 10/2013,p. 8)

The vampire diaries was nominated and won a lot of awards. There has been five seasons released so far, and the series has been renewed for the sixth season, probably in autumn of this year. (Wikipedia, 2014, online)

## CONCLUSION

This thesis concentrated on vampire phenomenon in folklore, literature and mostly film. Goals of this thesis were suppose to produce an overview of development of vampire characters mainly in movie adaptations. As we can see, the differences are quite big and distinctive, because it seems like every author or director provide the vampire characters different features. For instance, special powers such as mind reading and clairvoyance. On the other hand, some typical features are omitted, for instance in Stephanie Meyer's Twilight Saga, vampires are not vulnerable to the daylight, garlic and stake through the heart. The only way how to kill these vampire is to set them on fire. In TV show True Blood, vampires are not forced to feed on human blood, because there is another possibility of requiring synthetic blood. As we can see, it is obvious, that vampires have progressed in every aspect from the original concept.

At first, I defined an etymological and cultural origin of vampires in Romania. I was comparing two different kind of vampires, physical and spectral, and their primary and secondary abilities. Then I dealt with the representative of Romanian history, Vlad Dracula, called the Impaler, who was considered to be a vampire, because of his cruelty. In another part I focused on Bram Stoker and his research and inspiration for his novel Dracula. Then I provided the view of most valuable and well-known adaptations, which are considered to be the best Dracula adaptations ever created. Lastly, I moved to more contemporary and different variations of vampire movies, which are closer to modern vampires. In the last part, my aim was to give a closer look on nowadays famous TV series and the vampire saga, which have crazed every age group all over the world.

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## **RESUMÉ**

Bakalářská práce se zabývá fenoménem vampyrismu převážně v americké kinematografii. Práce se nejdříve zaměřuje na historii a lidové pověry s následným pohledem na oblast Rumunska, které je považováno za centrum vampyrismu. Poté je práce zaměřena na nejznámější filmové adaptace románu Dracula a postupně se dostává k modernějším filmovým zpracováním upírské tematiky



## ANOTATION

<b>Jméno a příjmení:</b>	Lucie Horejsková
<b>Katedra:</b>	Katedra anglického jazyka
<b>Vedoucí práce:</b>	Mgr. Blanka Babická, Ph.D.
<b>Rok obhajoby:</b>	2014
<b>Název práce:</b>	Fénomen vampyrismu v americké kinematografii
<b>Název v angličtině:</b>	The phenomenon of vampirism in the American cinema
<b>Anotace práce:</b>	Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá především fenoménem vampyrismu v americké filmové tvorbě. Nejprve seznamuje čtenáře s folklorem a mytologií v Rumunsku a s rozdělením tamního druhu upíra. Další kapitola je věnována Bramu Stokerovi a jeho cestě k napsání románu Dracula. Největší část práce je věnována filmovým zpracováním Draculy a přechod k modernějšímu pojetí upíra ve filmu a televizi. Cílem práce je pohled na vývoj role upíra v kinematografii.
<b>Klíčová slova v angličtině:</b>	vampirism, vampire, physical vampire, spectral vampire, Romania, Vlad the Impaler, Bram Stoker, Dracula, film adaptations, Twilight
<b>Anotace práce v angličtině:</b>	This thesis deals mainly with phenomenon of vampirism. At first, a reader is introduced by folklore and mythology in Romania and the division of the local kind of vampire. The next part is devoted to Bram Stoker and his way of writing a novel Dracula. The most important part of thesis is devoted to film adaptations of Dracula and the contemporary conception of a vampire in film and television. The aim of this thesis is the look on the development of the role of vampire in films.
<b>Rozsah práce:</b>	57 s.
<b>Jazyk práce:</b>	angličtina

