

Sociological Perspectives on Humour: Conflict Theories and Ethnic Humour

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Abstract

In this article I focus on important sociological approaches to humour and on the role they play in the understanding of humour in general. Humour is in its essence a form of communication, often moulded according to specific cultural and historical contexts. This review particularly focuses on conflict theories of humour, i.e. the ethnic humour variety, the most contested form of humour in modern Western societies. In its analysis, linguistic approaches combine with conflict theories.