

ABSTRACT

The goal of the thesis *Language biographies and social networks of the Czech minority members (on example of Czech-Croatian and Croatian-Czech bilingualism of Czechs in Croatia)* is to contribute to the knowledge of language behavior of the Czech minority members from Czech or mixed Czech-Croatian families living in Croatia. Language is one of the basic identity attributes of both individual and group of individuals. Being a social phenomenon, language has got two basic functions: the communicative function (as a communication device) and the identifying function (an individual identifies themselves with a group through the use of a certain language). The author of the thesis strives to describe the language processes that are going on in compatriot families, and the factors which affect maintaining the language within the national minorities, on the example of the Czech minority in Croatia.

The first part of the thesis introduces the Czech minority in Croatia since the times of the Czech's moving into Croatia, their organizing within the minority or founding of Czech associations and schools, up to the present form of existence, minority organization and Czech minority status in the laws and statutes of the Republic of Croatia. The author also describes the Czech minority language and summarizes the fundamental sources that deal with the minority from various points of view.

Chapter 3 presents the reception of language biographies/autobiographies and social networks both in Czech and foreign scientific literature, terminology, methodology (and its limitations) and summarizes the elemental scientific that which deal with this topic.

The following chapters present the research that was carried out by using the method of data collecting (language biographies and social networks) from narrative interviews. The research took place in 2010-2016 among the Czech minority members living in Croatia. It included members of 3 compatriot families, each of them consisting of 3-4 generations, 32 respondents in total. Using the data from their stories, the author wrote their biographies, included as a supplement to the thesis. Subsequently, the author analyzed the language biographies and the respondents' stories and examined and studied the reflection of language and communication: the language of communication and code switching, evaluation of the Czech compatriot language and one's own language knowledge, determination of mother tongue, communication in Czech schools and communication at work.

The last chapter focuses on revealing the factors that are important for maintaining the language as one of the fundamental factors of identity of the Czech minority in Croatia. Apart

from the usually stated factors such as administrative and legal status and securing the legal rights of a minority language in a given territory, family (transfer of the language between generations within family), minority education system, news service and journalism in the minority language, religion, cultural activity etc., other important factors can be observed: choice of life partner and the place to meet them, living together with other people within one household, language and communication competences, work place or liberal upbringing of children.