

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to describe the phenomenon of haenyo, the female divers who live at the South Korean island Jeju. The description of their manual work and specific culture follows with historical evolution not only of their work, but also the evolution of the social status in the society. This theme consists of the evolution of the hänjo profession up to the present day, when hänjo are at the edge of extinction. The other part of this thesis describes how the Korean government in collaboration with world organizations tries to secure this craft. That is also one of the reasons why hänjo got the title of the Intangible Heritage of UNESCO.