

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the influence of gender and socio-economic affinity on skull morphology in the population of Slavs from early medieval settlement Mikulčice. Mikulčice was the power center of Great Moravia with a hierarchically structured society. For a better understanding of historical relationships in the society at the time, it is important to identify individuals and classify them in the appropriate social group. There have been previously identified morphological differences of the skull between the inhabitants buried in the Mikulčice castle and those buried in the sub-castle area. These differences were related to the different living conditions based on the social status of the individuals buried in the castle and sub-castle area. This thesis studies whether there is a similar link between the individual's socio-economic affinity and the wealth of items found in graves. Furthermore, the influence of locality and burial equipment on skull morphology is compared with each other. Within the groups defined in this way, sexual dimorphism is also described, whose degree of manifestation, among other things, is related to the suitability of the external environment and is thus a convenient anthropological marker.

A total of 89 individuals (40 women and 49 males) aged 20 to 60 years were analyzed. The material was evaluated using geometric morphometry methods newly in the entire skull surface.

Significant intersexual differences have been identified in all subgroups of the Mikulčice population defined by the location of grave or grave equipment. A more pronounced sexual dimorphism was observed among the inhabitants of the Mikulčice castle compared to the sub-castle area. We deduce that the inhabitants of the Mikulčice castle lived in better conditions, eg with a better diet than the rest of the population. The more significant influence of the location on skull morphology was recognized in men rather than in women who probably did not have the same rights as men. The analysis also shows that the richness of burial equipment does not reflect too much the individual's social status, which could be explained by the growing influence of the Christian way of burial without the use of burial equipment or symbolic objects.

Key words: sexual dimorphism, population variability, socioeconomic status, skull, mastication, geometric morphometry, Great Moravia