

Abstract

Thesis *Alena Slezáková and her position in media. Biographical study* deals with career of a journalist, who has witnessed during her active years in media important events of Czech and Czechoslovakian history. Since the year 1964 she worked in *Lidová demokracie*, *Lidové noviny*, *Mladá fronta DNES* and magazines *Naše rodina* and *Týden*. In the year 1969 she was forbidden from entering parliament. She was allowed to return after Velvet Revolution, when she also started to work on education of young and beginning journalists. In the end of her career, right before she retired, she became a book reviewer.

This biographical study uses method of oral history, which means that author of this thesis interviewed Alena Slezáková regularly. It also uses method of qualitative content analysis of her texts, that informed about events in politics and society in Czech Republic and Czechoslovakia. Thesis also mentions important historic affairs, so the life and work of Slezáková can be contextualized.

Aim of this thesis was not only to describe life of Alena Slezáková but also to outline transformations in media she witnessed – censorship and its dissolution, new media law and transformation of party's press.

Part of this thesis are also two hypotheses which were confirmed. During the research it was shown that events of the years 1968 and 1989 had a completely fundamental impact not only on historical development of Czech Republic but also on journalistic career of Alena Slezáková. The year 1968 had a formative impact on her, while 1989 became a first moment she was able to work in free media. Second hypothesis states that presence of censorship in the first 25 years of the career of Alena Slezáková influenced not only form of her work, but also her personal life. It can be illustrated by her having to testify in presence of secret police and also by relationships that journalists from samizdat had with journalists from official press later on.

It is clear that work of a journalist is strongly influenced by political system he has to work in, but also by family background, various newsrooms and his or her character. In the case of Alena Slezáková it is diligence, intellect and love for democracy.