

My bachelor's thesis is a study of contemporary Romani musical texts. In particular, I focus on the thematic analysis of the texts, their compositional and linguistic style, as well as their function in present-day life.

Romani song texts have always been one of the cultural attributes with which the cultural identity of Roma has been strengthened. The question I have posed is whether the texts of current songwriters still fulfill this function.

I selected six Romani authors of song texts, who at the same time act as the musical interpreters of their own works. They are Mario Bihari, Jan Duzda, Marie Duzdova, Desiderius Duzda, Radoslav „Gipsy“ Banga, and members of the band Gulo čar. They represent various musical genres and an age range between twenty-two and forty-four years. Original texts released on musical media after the year 2000 served as the material for the study. All of the analyzed texts, with their Czech translations, can be found in the appendix.

In the chapter entitled “Thematic Analysis” I conclude that the most common themes in the analyzed texts have to do with human emotions, experiences and life events. Each author has a different manner of working with these motives. The following chapter, “The Language and Style of the Texts,” considers the ways in which the themes are expressed. In their texts, the authors make use of various lexical, compositional and acoustic linguistic devices in order to formulate their thoughts. The tone of the texts is lyrical or lyrical-epic.

In the chapter entitled “Analysis of Individual Authors’ Work” I deal with different factors that influence musical text creation. In addition to making comparisons between the texts of all six authors, I treat each writer individually.

Each author is influenced by his or her family environment, by whether he or she was in close contact with music from childhood, and by whether or not Romani is his or her native language.