

ABSTRACT

The aim of this PhD thesis *The compatriot community in Israel from an anthropological perspective; integration into local society and the relationship to the original homeland* is to analyse the process of reconstruction and interpretation of collective identity in the narratives of Jews who were born in Czechoslovakia and emigrated to Palestine between 1945-1949, and their descendants within the second and third generations. The conducted research approaches this issue through the biographical narratives of three generations and is conceptually anchored in social constructivist theories of ethnicity. The analysis, which is territorially situated in Israel, is conducted as an anthropological reflection seeking to answer questions related to the construction of ethnic or collective identity and the features that are essential to it. The narrative analysis is carried out on the basis of the narratives of six families of Czech Jews living in Israel today. Interviews were conducted with the first, second and third generations. The research includes questions about the content of shared identity and the transmission of collective consciousness.

Attention is paid primarily to how the narrators construct their collective identity and what are the defining themes or phenomena key to the construction of ethnic identity for all three generations. These are the themes or issues that are relevant to a given collective identity in terms of culture, society and history that have a formative influence on identity formation.

Key-words: identity, transnationalism, Jewish identity, collective memory, compatriot community in Israel