

The neighbourhood is one of the building blocks of the city. The concept of neighbourhood lies between sociological and geographical thought, its nature is spatial as well as social. Following Giddens' structuration theory, this thesis tries to develop understanding of a place as a duality of structure and action. The local structure of place is constituted by repeated everyday localised action. Meanwhile an action is constrained, but also enabled, by local structure. Local structures comprise of normative structures (e.g. formal or informal rules) and interpretative structures (e.g. meaning of place). In case of neighbourhood, they among others encompass neighbours' social networks, the attachment to the place and the sense of the community.

The empirical part of thesis uses small-sample survey to examine six localities of the Prague (Smíchov, Vinohrady, Hanspaulka, Invalidovna, Bohnice and Háje). The localities represent different morphological parts of the city – an inner city neighbourhood, a villa garden city and a housing estate. Survey results shows, that the garden city of Hanspaulka is a place with a strong neighbourhood community and deep rootedness of its residents. In the opposite, inner city block of flats (Smíchov, Vinohrady) are neighbourhoods, where neighbour's ties are not so developed and residents don't feel attached to their place of residence. The housing estates lie between them, representing a city's average.

The comparison with surveys of 1970s brings a few accounts about development of neighbourhood in post-socialist city. The housing estates and most of villa garden cities have been largely untouched by major transformation processes. It seems that the population there has been relatively stable and neighbourhood relations were often undisrupted. The situation in the inner city neighbourhood was different. The massive changes in the ownership of the houses (restitution and privatisation) and increase of residential fluctuations uprooted neighbourhood community in these localities..