

Abstract

This bachelor thesis concerns the influence of long-term stay abroad on adolescents' identity. The change of the surrounding and especially the culture is a marked interference with the individual's identity. He is found far away from all established conventions and values. His identity passes through the feeling of confusion regarding the new cultural environment. It can influence his personality though. Firstly, I deal with the conception of identity – its formation, types and research in sociology. The main part of this work introduces the analysis of a longitudinal research which I accomplished in France and Czech Republic. I describe how according to data-gathering the stay abroad influences the evolution of young people and what his concrete effect on forming identity is. I mention the main characteristics of the life abroad and consider how much they keep in touch with their culture during their stay. I discuss the change of priorities and future plans. Also I do not leave out the changes in national and ethnic identity. The most relevant part of this thesis is dedicated to the changes of personality and behavior of young people. I also summarize if those changes were intended or not and which factor did support and which slow them. In case of any changes I am interested in their length. In general, this work answers to a question if the influence of stay abroad on adolescents' identity is a social phenomenon.