

My final thesis provides a complex overview of relationships and attitudes of fifth and ninth grade pupils towards selected ethnic minorities, mainly Slovák, Roma, Vietnamese and Ukrainian minorities. This paper studies the history and presence of the above mentioned minorities on the territory of Czech Republic.

This paper also analyses the origins, structure and development of the attitudes of the younger and older pupils and points out the influence that school has in formation of these attitudes. It also aims to present the attitudes in a form of stereotypes or prejudices and once again points out how school affects the occurrence of stereotypes as well as how it helps to change these stereotypes.

The final thesis is based on the outcomes of qualitative research and identifies the ways in which the elementary school children are able to identify themselves with their nationality, studies their knowledge of other ethnic groups and what attitudes they exhibit towards other nationalities, especially Slovák, Roma, Vietnamese and Ukrainian. This paper also explores the interlinked relationships between school, family sphere and peers in connection with the formation of the attitudes towards ethnic minorities.

As a result, it was proven that children attending fifth and ninth grades of elementary school share similar relationships and hold similar attitudes towards ethnic minorities. Fifth graders can identify themselves with their nationality in the same manner as do the ninth graders. There are significant differences in perception of ethnic minorities among children from different types of schools. The ways in which these attitudes are formed is very much dependant on the socio-demographic characteristics of the elementary school. The paper also discussed the possible ways of changing the negative attitudes and prejudices of elementary school pupils towards selected ethnic minorities.