

Abstract in English

The dissertation thesis deals with foreign students in the Czech republic, specifically immigrant students coming from all over the world - from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine and then from China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. The basic objective of this work is not a real attempt to display the everyday reality of certain groups of migrant-students of Czech language in the Czech Republic in such a way that it only focuses on the problems and barriers they encounter in their studies in the Czech language. It also deals with their adaptation and integration into mainstream Czech society. At the same time, however, we realize that this work is only a partial contribution to the knowledge of migrant-students' life in the Czech environment between 1998 and 2011.

This work is based on relevant literature and the research is based on interviews with students and teaching observations. The choice of qualitative methods was intentional to serve our matter the best, since there has been a lack of research in this particular area in recent times. This focus on qualitative techniques is also dependent on the characteristics of the sample group, especially in the linguistic and sociocultural realm.

The research was carried out at the Institute of Language and Training of the Charles University in Prague (UJOP UK), by the separate workplace in Albertov - the centre for language work, which is offering long-term courses of Czech for foreigners continuously, in the period between September 1998 and February 2004, when I worked there as a lecturer of Czech and History. At the school, there are people studying from different regions and parts of the world. Students enroll from some 40 countries each semester. In my research, as mentioned above, I investigated among students from four Asian countries - China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam - for two main reasons. Firstly, they are numerically the largest group of ethnic communities (this trend was applied continuously throughout my active work at the UJOP UK). In addition, students coming from those countries belong to entirely different socio-cultural entities which seem to have most problems with integration into Czech society.

Apart from these exotic minorities, I also look into another somewhat disparate and inconsistent category coming from a Russian-speaking community of Belarusians, Russians and Ukrainians. Also, these groups constitute a significant numerical aspect of the representation, which is also accompanied by traditional (from the socialist era) unpopularity

of the Russian-speaking element among Czechs. This attitude remains from the era of the former Soviet Union, despite the fact that the socio-cultural or linguistic aspects of this case do not play as significant role as the groups coming from the distant ends of the Asian continent.

Between 2010 and 2011, multiple research investigations followed (again with the help of the students interested in teaching observation and structured interviews with teachers), which verified the conclusions found within the first research from 1998 to 2004.

Regarding the reasons or motives for migration of the Russians, the reasons associated with political instability in Russia and concerns about own safety clearly dominated. Then important features were the "family nature" of migration, the existence of strong social bonds and relative isolation in terms of reduced external communication, contrary to developed internal communication. A somewhat different motivation to stay in our country applies to the Ukrainians. That is especially due to a precarious socio-economic situation in Ukraine. The majority of Ukrainian immigrants come to the Czech Republic for a short period (often repeatedly) with the prospect of a relatively high life standard (as compared with the Ukraine) which serves to improve appalling living conditions and earnings of their family members back home. The Belarusians have a specific position within the Russian-speaking communities. They leave their country for political reasons and settle permanently in the Czech Republic to start a new phase of their lives in a democracy.

In terms of the nature of migration in the case of the Chinese and the Vietnamese, those are economically motivated migrants who come to the Czech Republic for business reasons for a long-term stay, which often becomes a permanent migration. In the case of the Koreans, on the other hand, the most frequent reason for migration is to study. In some cases, we speak about migration within the branches of one company, which usually correspond to a shorter time spent in the CR (from several months to several years), thus in this context we eventually speak about temporary migration. The Japanese are a specific type of immigrants, who come temporarily to study or for personal reasons with an interest in Czech culture, history, art, etc. to allegedly "broaden cultural horizons." In this context, we speak about the Japanese in terms of "transmigrants" that are temporarily "traveling" through various European countries aiming to take new and unknown "discovery" tours in the different parts of the world - to them exotic corners of the world. At the same time, I want to emphasize that these are not typical

"Japanese tourists" but the actual temporary migrants.

This dissertation thesis can serve as a starting point or an inspiration for more complex analysis of the issues in the area of migrant students in the Czech environment.

Translated by Tereza Šmídová

Keywords

Migration, immigration, migrants, students, the Belarusians, the Russians, the Ukrainians, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Koreans, the Vietnamese, Czech for foreigners, Czech as a foreign language, linguistic aspects, sociocultural aspects, teaching of migrant-students, adaptation, integration.