

Abstract

Presented paper is concerned with the issue of symbolic processes and practices used for creation of group boundaries of Kukolice community. The village inhabitants use various images and narratives in order to enact the boundaries in relation to the neighbouring Polish group. The main objective of the work is to analyze and understand the aforementioned practices. The paper uses theoretical background based on Cohen's Symbolic Construction of Community, Said's Orientalism and Elias's foreword to the Established and the Outsiders to interpret and analyze the empirical data. The research was carried out in a village inhabited by 390 people, located on the border with Poland in Frydlant area. Unstructured interviews, participant observations and analyses of media and official documents were mostly used during the research. Over the course of the analysis, Poles seem to merge with the images of mine and power plant, dirt, poverty and lesser degree of civilization that are all ascribed to the Polish territory behind the border, following Taussig's concept of mimetic faculty.