Abstract

The thesis deals with intergenerational transmission of stories about political prisoners of 50s. In the theoretical part the concepts connected with sociology of memory are compiled – collective memory, family (better ancestral) memory, communicative memory, and generations. Also the historical contexts of political imprisonment, of the Prague spring and of the Velvet revolution are summarized. The author then made a qualitative analysis of the interviews with two following generations of descendants of six political prisoners. The analysis showed that the communicative situations were significantly co-determined by the author’s intergenerational relations to the narrators: to generation of grandparents, parents and in some cases to contemporaries. Also often found metareflections about history and destiny of people, repeated specific stories with symbolic content or mingling of big (national) and small (family) history were connected with the genre of narration adequate to the communicative situation. The interviews allow characterizing of the intergenerational transmission of stories about political prisons of 50s as the communicative memory connected with specific life situations (e.g. adolescent asking) but also limited by many barriers. When transferring family history (but apparently even beyond) the ancestral attitudes to the world and to the political constitution of society are automatically transferred. The comparison of the research with the similar one from Welzer, Moller and Tschuggnall about the transmission of stories in families with the ancestor-Nazi showed that the ancestral memory is largely autonomous to collective memory. The attitudes are shared even in in the families with less intensive transmission of history and they stay relatively stable independently on re-interpretations of history associated with the transformation of the political establishment.