

# ABSTRACT

This thesis introduces sociolinguistic phenomenon called street compliment, that has not been studied much in Czech Republic. It is a form of a comment given in public places by unacquainted persons, most commonly by men to women but not exclusively. Based in the feminist tradition the research was realized as a set of semi-structured interviews with eight female participants. The research revealed how the participants understand the phenomenon and how the heteronormative configuration of society is being perpetuated. The interpretation of street compliment as a form of a compliment is based on the discourse of female attractiveness and a strong sexual drive at males. The street compliment can be used to express sexual interest, to perform masculinity or to perform identity overall. The street compliment as a display of masculine behaviour towards a legitimate target, that is to say attractive woman, refers to the use of street compliment as a mean of disciplination of female subjects. The participants agreed that they do not utter street compliments because of its convenience. Instead they would express their interest in a group of friends without exteriorizing it. On one side the participants create subversive discourses, however it is common to observe symbolic violence done to them, amongs other means by applying certain type of limitations on themselves. That is one of strategies to prevent the studied situations to occur as they are perceived as difficult or even scary. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate the importance of this topic and initiate discussion on the academic ground and elsewhere.

## **Keywords:**

gender, street compliment, compliment, discourse, attractiveness, victimisation, performance, heteronormativity, symbolic violence, humour, Czech Republic