

Regional Identity and Symbolic Borders between "Us and Them": Case Study Hrdlovka's Demolition Effect on Osek

Abstract

The bachelors work focuses on the creation of regional identity and symbolic borders between "Us and Them" on the Osek city example, where 2000 people from the Hrdlovka village moved in. Hrdlovka was demolished for brown coal mining purposes. The approach of my work was to find out what factors are influencing the creation of an identity attached to a specific location based on which a symbolic "Us and them" border between the initial Osek and initial Hrdlovka inhabitants was formed. Further on I examined, if there is a relationship between regional identity and symbolic borders. The results of the quantitative research, which is mainly based on in-depth interviews, indicate that regional identity is being formed depending on the time spent in one place, city of origin, age of respondent, life and environmental conditions, collective awareness and relationship which identify ourselves in the given location. Symbolic borders arise only in situations where the location-attached regional identity is threatened. Symbolic borders of the inhabitants of both Hrdlovka and Osek raised from differences in their regional identity which means there is a direct relationship between them. The whole work summarizes what a location which people are attached to, can mean for them and how it is to lose it due to somebody else's decision.