

This master thesis has two major purposes. First purpose of this master thesis is to discuss qualitative and comparative approach to analysis, qualitative data (re)use, and their combination because, in recent years, these approaches have become increasingly important in the discourse of social sciences being related to the contemporary methodological discussions. The other purpose of this master thesis is to introduce the example of comparative (re)use of qualitative data because data (re)use is rather low and the example of this approach will contribute to its development. I discuss the application of this combination on the example of the membership categorization analysis that was focused on the comparison of member categories use by “drug dealers” in Prague and Frankfurt. The analysis revealed similarities as well as differences in the local production of member categories. The similar use of member categories and their predicates is based in the similar occasion (research interview) and in the similar social situation of interviewees (educated, not penalized). Furthermore, the similar use of categories suggests that, in both cases, the omnirelevant member category of drug dealer is relevant and have similar meanings. In order to sustain their identity as a legitimate members of society, interviewees resist to be members of category dealer in the MCD of “deviants”. To do that, interviewees categorize certain aspects of social life as out of the borders and as unacceptable (for example not having a job, having profit). The differences between uses of member categories might be attributed to different socio-cultural development of both places. In Frankfurt, interviewees categorize drugs differently, use local member knowledge, use predicates such as ability to speak the language and “Kanake” for the individuals with non-German origin, more specifically, of Turkish descent.

This master thesis is divided into four main sections. First section discusses the selected aspects of comparative approach and qualitative data (re)use. The second section of this master thesis moves on from the general description of these approaches to their application. To describe the application of these approaches, the research process of my investigation is discussed. Specifically, I discuss the problems that I encountered and the solution that I used to address them. Third section presents the results of the comparative approach to analysis. In the last concluding section, questioning the horizons of this approach, I discuss my experience with the comparative approach to qualitative data (re)use.