ABSTRACT

The interrelation between space and culture represents the central question of this doctoral thesis. To interpret this relationship the author approaches the issue by virtue of actual identity attributes of the selected ethnic groups, namely Slovak and Hungarian minorities living in Prague. The aim of the work is to define the relevance and unique representation of the spatial and cultural phenomenon in the context of existing relations, including determining the extent of observability this mutual connection.

The hypothesis of this doctoral is to present culture as a spatially unbounded, and the phenomenon of space as a medium, which can influence the intensity of interest in relation to the own ethno-identifying components. The verification of this assumption author carries out within social and virtual space, on the basis of registered discourses. Discourses, sorted into thematic categories, represent the most common attributes of ethnicity and ethnic identity of the given target groups. The empirical part of this thesis contains the analysis and interpretation of the discourses, which are supported with the theory of articulation. More comprehensive definitions of applied theoretical approaches, together with terminology, research methods and ethics or netiquette, are situated in the theoretical and methodological section. The characterization of Prague and selected target groups, Slovaks and Hungarians from Slovakia, is depicted on the one hand from the perspective of historical and socio-cultural events and on the other in terms of current correlation city – majority – minority.

The presented results enrich the state of knowledge in connection with the perception of importance of the attributes of ethnicity as far as ethnically and linguistically relative groups are concerned within Central Europe. In addition, these results also inform with regards to the linguistic and cultural kinship of Slovaks and Czechs, as well as the perception of Slovak-Hungarian interethnic relations, and other findings in the field of globalization, multi- or interculturalism and virtual reality.

Key words: ethnicity, ethnic identity, interrelation of culture and space, social space, virtual space, discourse, linguistic and cultural kinship, theory of articulation, interethnic contacts, Slovak minority, Hungarian minority, Prague