

ABSTRACT

Researching the quality of life is an interdisciplinary matter. The physical and social environment that man inhabits, we consider to be the basic building blocks of the quality of life. The classical geographic question is what kind of relationship between people and the environment arises. One way we can measure the relationship between man and the environment is to ask how man perceives the environment and how he evaluates it. A suitable tool for understanding these contexts is the concept of residential satisfaction. Residential satisfaction derives from alignment of the needs and abilities of man with the qualities of the environment that he inhabits. This dissertation focuses on the understanding of the meaning of space in the context of aging and its subsequent utility in the research of the residential satisfaction of the aging population. This dissertation contributes to the realization of a highly socially relevant topic and expands knowledge about the quality of the living environment of the senior population. It connects research concerning urban geography and gerontological disciplines. Research on residential satisfaction is performed on the background of urban processes that significantly influence the shape of the current post-socialist cities. The residential environment in the dissertation is understood as both means and limitations that significantly affect the quality of life of older people.

In the introductory part, the dissertation deals with the introduction of the studied subject into the wider social context. We focus on introducing the process of demographic aging both in a global and a Czech context as well as on issues related to aging in the urban environment. This dissertation discusses different perspectives on aging in the city together with the positive and negative impacts of the transformation of the urban environment on the quality of life for the senior population. Attention is paid to post-socialist urban transformation and the change of demographic behaviour of young people that significantly shape the characteristics of a seniors living environment in contemporary Central European cities. The theoretical part is dedicated to the concept of residential satisfaction through which we assess the views of older people on the quality of their living environment. The theoretical elaboration of the concept of residential satisfaction is linked to the discussion of the importance of space in the everyday life of aging people. The second part of the work consists of a set of seven expert publications, mostly written by a broader collective of authors.

Keywords: urban geography – residential satisfaction – seniors – quality of residential environment – transforming residential environment – Prague