Abstract

This thesis is concerned with geographical aspects of subcultures, concretely those considered as so-called youth subcultures. The research is focused on two typical examples of youth subcultures – punks and non-racist skinheads. The aim of this thesis was to elict some of the ways subcultural identity may influence one's spatial behavior, perception, decision-making and choice of localities. The research was accomplished by means of qualitative research methods, such as participant observation, structured interviews and informal interviews.

The begining of the thesis is based on theory. The very first chapter is concerned with literature discussion and resources evaluation, second chapter is concerned with the description of subcultures – both as a phenomenon in itself and as concrete groups, punks and skinheads in case of this thesis. The rest of the thesis is based on the research in itself. It is devided into three chapters: methodology, review and characteristic of the localities used by subcultural members and finally the subcultural centres formation and their meaning for subcultural members.

One of the most important chapters is the one dedicated to a review of the localities and places often used and visited by punks and skinheads. Those can be clubs, pubs, bars, restaurants, clubrooms, squats, rehearsal rooms, specialised shops or football stadiums. All places were explored and described. The description is focusing on location, accessibility, spatial features, enterprise specialisation and offer. It is also focusing on the typical visitors, customers and users including stuff and owners. Special attention is paid to their relations and activities, especially the ones taking place within pubs and clubs. The description of each place or locality (or groups of them) also contains the information collected from respondents – selected members of either punk or skinhead subculture. The interviews with the respondents were centered on their relationships to the places listed in the review above, aiming to detect some of the most important linkages between their subcultural identity and their spatial behavior, perception etc.

The very last chapter is the result of the collected information analysis. This chapter attempts to explain how subcultural centres are being formed and what are their essential attributes. It also attempts to outline their meaning for subcultural members, the way they decide among them and also the factors important for the their localization.