

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis analyzes the identity of German minority in the town of Medzev (South Slovakia). The research traced the development of identity manifestation from the mid-20th century until now. The aim was to discover what factors (historical events, homogenization politics, private motivation or randomness) influenced the representation of identity of the German minority in the local cemeteries. The cemeteries thus serve as a source of information about local German identity manifestation. The field research was carried out in 2016 and 2017 in Medzev, which is a town with symbolical value for the German minority in Slovakia. In the cemeteries the author analyzed the used language and names on the gravestones, as well as the position of the gravestones, their form and material. The qualitative research in the cemeteries was supported by biographical and semi-structured interviews with members of the local German minority. The main contribution of this project lies in the reconstruction of German identity manifestation in the local cemeteries in the course of last 70 years. Based on the results of the confrontation of mostly invariable inscriptions on gravestones with testimonies of the narrators, the ambition of the thesis is to point out how flexible and multilayered are identities in the language-mixed area. The conclusions will help to understand the reality of cohabitation in a multilingual settings as well as the impacts of assimilationist policies towards national minorities in the examined region.