

## Summary

Play is very interesting part of behaviour. Despite of broad interest it still remains insufficiently well-researched. Researchers try to describe play behaviour and explain the ontogenesis and answer one of the most important questions about function of play behaviour. These are the main topics that I deal with in my Ph.D. thesis, specifically with detail analysis of play behaviour based on data obtained from own video-recording of play behaviour of free-ranging Hanuman langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*) in Bhangarh locality in northwest India.

Goal of the Ph.D. thesis is to analyze several aspects of play behaviour. First goal was characteristic of play behaviour and its categories and compiling of play ethogram. Self-handicapping is in the centre of interest of my study of play behaviour. This behaviour is typical and unique for play and has not been satisfactorily explained. In first paper included in my Ph.D. thesis I analysed patterns of ethogram of play behaviour of Hanuman langurs and other monkey species. Results showed that self-handicapping patterns and pattern dissimilar to “serious” behaviour can constitute a major part of play repertoire. Play behaviour is very variable and different parts may have different function. In second publication we analyzed in detail performance and occurrence of typical self-handicapping pattern, head rotation. Head rotations were very variable. They occurred in solitary and also social play and probably serve to create unexpected events which is in agreement with training for the unexpected hypothesis. Third manuscript deals with play partner choice. Choice of the play partner is a factor that influences the whole play interaction and we can suppose that animals should choose they play partners very carefully. Langurs preferably initiated play bouts with same-aged partners, females with other females. We did not find any differences in duration of play bouts of different partners. Younger animals terminated play bouts more often, males terminated at the same frequency as females in play bouts of mismatched partners. All three publication deal with one common topic which is explanation of function of play behaviour.