

The Abstract

The main focus of the diploma thesis named „GULAG as a life experience“ is on the Soviet repressive system in the era of 30's to 50's of the 20th century. There are two approaches in this thesis: the first one is concerning the narrating and memory, the other point of view is the topics reflecting in the narrations. Both, oral and written stories are used, the written ones are prevailing.

In the third chapter, I deal with the topic of human memory and its relation to history and telling about past. I am posing the question concerning the relation between memory and society, memory and history, how do the people conceive their narrations, what sort of language tools and schemes of telling do they use and what the differences between oral and written narrations are. This empirically focused part of the thesis is forgone by a theoretical part dealing with the mentioned topics. All is illustrated by using examples from the life stories of survivors.

The other main topic is discussed in the eighth chapter, dealing with topics often appearing in the memories of the survived people. As well as in the other part I am using here the examples of the life stories for better illustration of the explained topic. The subtopics are divided into five groups: “time and space”, “death and suicide”, “strategies of surviving”, “the changes of “me” and self-reflection” and “interpersonal relations”.

The remaining chapters are providing the theoretical frame to the reader. This is concerning the subjects as oral history, camps and imprisonment. Moreover these chapters are offering the possibility to learn about the literature related to Soviet repressive system and learn about the historical context.