

ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to affect opinions and attitudes of residents of a small town in the east Slovakia to the society during the period of normalization and transformation. These aims are achieved by exploiting the method of oral history and using mainly data obtained in biographical interviews with eight locals as a primary source of information. Their statements are thoroughly analysed and interpreted in two counterparts. Regarding the normalization period, social security was the main subject for analysis, namely the phenomenon of labour, housing, and social services for families with children, while in respect of the period of transformation, personal freedom of expression, movement, and religion has been analysed. Finally, all the obtained conclusions are compared with the available scientific literature in the given field. This thesis aims to affect mainly how the mentioned phenomena were perceived by the individual narrators and how this perception has changed after the year 1989. As part of the conclusion and using all the findings this work provides a comparison of the studied periods; however, an imaginary battle between social security and individual freedoms remains undecided. Moreover, beside the actual analysis the thesis contains a methodological section as well as a section devoted to the characterization of the analysed periods, and a brief introduction of narrators.

Key words: normalization, transformation, Krompachy, oral history, year 1989, labour, freedom, socialism, biographic narration, the history of everyday life