

**Abstract:**

The theoretical part of the thesis focuses on the study of each transitory phase of the human's lifespan. The leading thread of this thesis is the Erikson's life stages theory that leads us by its nature to overcome the challenges of each stage. This basic approach is completed with partial findings of other theories in order for each stage to be introduced with all its conflicts, risks and challenges that can lead to the development of person's character. Text is completed with theoretical processing of several specific stage transitions (for example the beginning of the school attendance, wedding, beginning of the retirement etc.) One chapter is dedicated to the ritual as a tool of managing the transitional periods. Practical part of the thesis is presented by the current phenomenon of postponing the transition from childless to maternal stage of woman's life with the help of analysis of internet discussions where the motivations of young women for the postponing of motherhood are studied.

**Keywords:**

transitional period, transitional crisis, postponing motherhood

