

Abstract

Gender in the playground: Ethnographic research

This thesis analyses the (re)production of gender stereotypes in the playground. The theoretical framework of the analysis is based on the classical approaches (Renzetti and Curran 2005 Jarkovská 2004) , gender socialization (Giddens 1999, Gilligan 2001 and Bem 2003) and is also inspired by current research on playgrounds (Paetcher, Clark 2003 Millan 2012). The research was conducted at a playground located in Beroun throughout years 2013 and 2014 as a non-participating observation of the visitors of the playground. The work presents a comprehensive view of gender and gender stereotypes reproduced at the playground in two areas: 1) the area of gender stereotypes in the playground reproduced by children and 2) the area of gender stereotypes which adult accompaniment brings to the field. Analysis shows the way in which these categories are (re)constructed and played out in everyday life and how they affect the subculture of the playground. The analysis is mainly based on the surprising finding that the children at the playground were accompanied by almost the same number of men as women. Other findings are related to the children themselves. Children in the playground do a lot of gaming activities, which is no longer so surprising and also proves that children are influenced by their family and friends and gender stereotypes are eventually reproduced by them.

Keywords: gender, gender stereotypes, gender socialization, child, playground, game, non-participating observation