

## **Abstract**

**Title:** Skateboarding - sport or lifestyle

**Objectives:** The aim of the thesis is to examine connections, relationships and results, why are skateboarders preferring this activity and to describe them objectively within the majority culture to understand their thoughts. We will try to describe, what are the main differences between them and the rest of the society and how it is important to their own identity.

**Methods:** We gained needed quantity of information from 6 skateboarders, with the aid of qualitative method – semi-structured interview. The data picking was taking place from April to July 2015. From the gained information we analysed behaviour patterns, motives, motivation and thought of the skateboarders.

**Results:** Skateboarders never think about definitions, have no interest in somehow categorizing skateboarding. Some skateboarders immediately identify with the fact that skateboarding is their lifestyle, some of them gradually realize that skateboarding lifestyle can be for their way of life considered, others argue that they would skateboarding lifestyle imagine more intensive than how they do it. Nevertheless they admit, that their life can probably be closer to something that could be called the lifestyle of skateboarders. So that a man could confess lifestyle, activity must be operated longer to see whether it brings a great deal about it and what are the main foundations. At first skateboarding was child pleasure and fun of movement on a skateboard, but then something had changed. Skateboarding and skateboard culture have influenced their riders so much, that it completely changed their identity. Only after years spent on a skateboard they may claim that they live by way of skateboarding and consider it as their lifestyle. Their collective lifestyle has the same features, values, elements, but each of them with their values and habits has their unique individual style of life. It deals with a lot of openness, freedom and joy of life. In my opinion skateboarders differ from the majority of society mainly with their consistency, openness and solidarity. Thoughts of respondents clearly

show that actual experience of riding a skateboard most motivates them. It brings them positive emotions, joy and happiness. Skateboarding means to them self-fulfillment and self-realization. It represents love and passion, which is sunked into their skin. Their thoughts could be well described with one of the most common skateboarding proverb „*Skate or die*“.

**Keywords:** Skateboarding, lifestyle, subculture, sport, motivation