

ABSTRACT

The subject of this dissertation is a theoretical and empirical analysis of the transformations of cultural identity in the context of intercultural communication. In the course of processing the chosen topic the author used the theoretical knowledge acquired by studying professional books and other relevant sources as well as the empirical data which were gathered by the author during her anthropological field research over her two-year stay in Berlin. The main objective of the dissertation was to describe, analyse and interpret the phenomenon of cultural identity in the context of migration processes, globalization and the European refugee crisis. Special attention was, therefore, paid to the situation of foreigners who find themselves in a new different culture and are going through a difficult process of adaptation to a new environment. Transformations of the foreigners identity and their relationship to the majority culture are also being studied in terms of different types of immigration policies in host countries. In the focus of the research interest were the questions of the efficiency of assimilation, integration and multicultural policy. Among the sub-objectives of the work are included the description and analysis of the processes of formation, reproduction and transformation of cultural identity into the identity of bicultural or transcultural. Also the identification of barriers and factors influencing the effectiveness of intercultural communication are mentioned. A part of the dissertation is a presentation of the results of the anthropological field research, which the author carried out between the years 2014 and 2015 among foreign students and lecturers in the academic environment at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Through a questionnaire survey, interviews and a participant observation of her informants and respondents she tried to identify the specifics of intercultural communication, the attitudes of the Berliners to multicultural coexistence, and to analyse the processes of foreigners adaptation to a different cultural environment. From this point of view the aim of the work was to contribute to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms affecting the transformation of the foreigners identity and the analysis of the factors that affect intercultural communication and multicultural coexistence from the interdisciplinary perspective and through field research. Last but not least, the aspiration of this work is to highlight the importance of intercultural competence personality and multicultural education as a tool to understanding "otherness" and the culture of "the others" in the increasingly globalised world.

Key words in English: culture, cultural change, cultural identity, immigration policy, intercultural communication.