

## **Abstract**

The presented thesis deals with the phenomenon of the male solo dance otherwise known as “The Slovacko Verbunk” and its contemporary interpretations performed by child dancers. This phenomenon is a modern element of folklorism and can be observed Moravian Slovakia region in the past two decades. The main theme of the research and subsequent analysis is the form and performance of “Verbunk” by child dancers. Marginal attention is also paid to their own opinions and attitudes towards “Verbunk” as it is traditionally performed by adult male dancers. Moreover, the thesis deals with “Národní přehlídka dětských verbířů,” roughly translated as “The National Exhibition of the Child Verbunk Dancer.” This exhibition is organized in cooperation within The International Child Folklore Festival called “Kunovské léto” (The Summer of Kunovice) which has undoubtedly influenced the phenomenon of children reinterpreting “Verbunk” dance the most. The backbone of the thesis is a qualitative research based on interviews conducted mostly with the adults involved in the phenomenon – tutors and adult dancers of “Slovacko Verbunk,” leaders of the children’s folklore ensembles and the children’s parents. The aim of this thesis is not only to describe the modern phenomenon in question which has its roots in the traditional folklore, but to also trace the origins of the importance of “Slovacko Verbunk.”

**Keywords:** authenticity, child, folklore, folklorism, infantilization, folk dance, male solo performance, verbunk, International Children Folklore Festival Kunovské léto, Moravian Slovakia, Moravia, Czechia.