

## **Abstract**

Dreams of the deceased have been the subject of relatively few research studies to date, despite the many content categories of these dreams described in the literature. This diploma thesis first introduces the reader to the topic of mourning and then outlines the specifics of dreams of the deceased. In addition to the content categories of these dreams, their impact on the grief of the bereaved is described, as well as the emotional tone of the dreams. The main goal of the empirical part was to assess the reliability of *Garfield's Revised Themes of Dreams of the Deceased* and to expand it with a new category called *Common Activities and Memories*. Another aim of the research was to gain new insights into the reported emotional tone of these dreams. A total of 86 dream reports from 58 bereaved individuals were collected. The dreams were subsequently classified by two raters according to the given content categories, and the inter-rater agreement was evaluated using Cohen's kappa coefficient. For the original content categories, a moderate to perfect level of agreement was achieved, and for the new category that expands the original categorization, a strong level of agreement was obtained. Additionally, it was found that these dreams are significantly more often rated as comforting rather than distressing during the dream, although this is not necessarily the case upon waking. The research results are discussed in relation to other existing studies, and practical recommendations for professionals working with the bereaved are proposed.

## **Keywords:**

Dreams of the Deceased; Content Categorization; Bereavement; Mourning; Grief