

Abstract

The aim of the dissertation is to find answers to questions that are connected to the problems of the construction of ethnic/national identity and related identification signs. This discourse creation of collective identity is analyzed on the basis of biographic texts of the citizens of the Czech Republic who identify with Germans, and remained, after the forced extradition of the German-speaking population, for various reasons in the country of their origin. The research project is, from the territorial point of view, situated in the border region of Chomutov which has been for centuries formed mainly by the German population. Using the biographic method there has been recorded, in the course of the terrain investigation itself, a total of 50 biographic narratives of the representatives of three successive generations of this community.

By means of analysis and interpretation of the content of these biographic materials there are primarily captured the collectively shared pictures of the past and important identification attributes by which protagonists of the oldest generation of this community form their ethnic/national identity. In this way it is clarified how the narrators themselves re-construct and re-interpret their subjectively experienced “we”, at the same time defining themselves against the non-members of this collectivity. Also the relations between generations and the transmission of ethnic consciousness of the oldest generation of the Czech Germans to their descendants is discussed. To meet this aim also the biographies of the protagonists of two other generation groups became the subject of analysis and interpretation. Investigating these relations between generations shows how and using which means the narrators create by discourse their own ethnic identity, and what importance is assigned in this process to the ethnic and language consciousness of their predecessors.