Abstract:

This diploma thesis is focused on storytelling in the state of moderate stress. The theoretical part includes an introduction to the issue of stress, defense mechanisms, Thematic Apperception Test and then explains in detail theory of defense mechanism according to Phebe Cramer and also Defense Mechanism Manual which is used for evaluation of TAT defenses. The aim of empirical part of this thesis is to find out whether moderate pain which is caused by the fact that participants holds their hand in front of them (in position of "staying power") has effect on number of occurrence of defense mechanisms in narratives according to TAT. The stories are narrated during the staying power position. The second aim is to verify whether number and quality of used defenses has effect on the duration of the staying power position. The simple regression analysis was used to find out that there is no significant relationship between number of used defense mechanisms and the level of experienced pain. However, it is shown that higher usage of defense mechanisms has positive effect on duration of staying power position. This effect is even stronger if only matured defense mechanisms are included in the model, which is projection and identification.