

## Summary

The dissertation entitled „DEAF-WORLD. Deafness in the perspective of engaged anthropology” is focused on the collective dimension of deafness. This implies the main thesis of the dissertation: deafness is both individual and collective phenomena. It means that deafness can be a position in which individual can exist and also, in the same time, a position which occurs because of group relationships. In this dissertation I don't follow the distinction between medical and cultural aspects of deafness. On the contrary, I think that these both should be take into consideration in parallel with each other. Because of that, the key concepts in my analysis became M. Merleau-Ponty's „embodiment” and „life-world”.

In the dissertation I try to answer three main research question: why it is inadequate to define deafness as „a lack of sth” and specially as a „lack of hearing”, how the collective dimension of deafness manifest itself and what kind of factors affect the collective dimension of deafness manifestation. I also discuss some methodological aspects of deaf research. In particular, I ask how the engaged anthropology perspective, especially activism, affects the possibility of deaf research and how it affects the research process.

The dissertation has four parts. The first one focuses on the critical review of selected deafness research literature items. In this part of the dissertation I present how it happens that deafness defined as a „lack of sth”, especially „lack of hearing”, is taken over and get lost in the research area. I also pay attention to the deficiency of „deafness as a lack of sth” concept because of its impossibility to take into consideration the issue of adult deaf ways of life.

The second part includes autoethnographic excerpts which introduce the discussion about activism and how it affects the research process. In this part I review deaf studies literature in the scope of culture, community, ethnicity concepts applied to the research on deafness. I emphasis difficulties which come from using this kind of analytical tools. In the end of this part I introduce the sign language concept of DEAF-WORLD and its analytical and explanatory potential.

The third part of the dissertation focuses on sign language research. I present selected aspects of linguistic description of sign language: modality, acquisition and iconicity in relation with the concept of embodiment.

The last part is ethnographic and it focuses on three aspects of DEAF-WORLD: naming, discussing and contacts with hearing people. In this part, thanks to many quotation from interviews with deaf persons, in symbolic way I give them voice and let them complete their DEAF-WORLD characteristic by themselves.

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