

ABSTRACT

The present diploma thesis examines gender in Czech language textbooks for the second stage of the primary school. It aims to analyse three selected textbook series published by different publishing houses, using the results to evaluate whether or not individual textbooks depict men and women in a stereotypical manner whether there is discrimination on grounds of language.

The thesis comprises a theoretical and empirical part. The theoretical part briefly introduces and delimits the concept of gender. It goes on to discuss selected aspects of linguistic gender discrimination, mainly the use of the generic masculine and inappropriate clichéd language. We also introduce the issue of deriving feminine forms of foreign female family names, which is topical at the time of writing. The final chapter of the theoretical part discusses the impact of gender bias in schooling on pupils' education. The empirical part analyses three textbook series, focussing on the representation of men and women in the subject matter, in illustrations, and on the use of gender-neutral language.

The results of the analysis indicate that men prevail over women in all the textbooks analysed in several respects: namely in terms of the proportion of text excerpts authored by male or female authors; the number of illustrations depicting males or females; and above all in the representation of public figures. Further, typical jobs are ascribed to men more often than to women. As regards hobbies and activities, men are mostly associated with sports and public affairs, while women with housekeeping and childcare, but this does not hold across the board. In terms of gender-neutral language, the textbook authors clearly make an effort to avoid the generic masculine in task instructions, as well as to keep to the principles of gender-neutral address forms in textbook introductions; however, these principles are not followed entirely consistently. In all textbook series, gender stereotypes tend to prevail.

KEYWORDS

gender, gender stereotypes, gender-neutral language, gender in education, Czech language textbooks for the second stage of the primary school