

Abstract

Since 2006, Czech Radio has broadcast a weekly programme called Tales of the 20th Century, which is produced by journalists Adam Drda and Mikuláš Kroupa. The programme is a journalistic unit, but its primary source is oral history interviews with witnesses of the last century from the Memory of the Nation collection. The aim of the thesis is to characterize the programme on the basis of quantitative and qualitative methods and to place it in the continuum of oral history and journalism. The theoretical part deals with oral history, its purpose and development, as well as the differences between journalistic and oral history approaches to the interview method. Through a quantitative content analysis of 773 episodes broadcast between 1 May 2006 and 1 May 2021, the research itself identifies who the show's typical memoirists are, what topics are most often covered by the show, what representation of men and women are present, and in which regions the stories most often take place, while also exploring how these characteristics change depending on the presenter. According to the research, men are more represented on the programme, with political prisoners of the 1950s being the most common topic, followed by Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans and clergymen. By describing the typical memorialist, the thesis tries to answer, among other things, whether the programme Tales of the 20th Century fits into the "Western" tradition of oral history and thus gives space to people who are overlooked by classical historiographical methods. For a deeper insight into the making of the programme, the author of the thesis conducted an interview with one of the programme's creators, Mikuláš Kroupa.