

ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with the theme of posttraumatic growth in adulthood (40-60 years) and old age (70 + years) following the death of close person during their adolescence, adulthood and old age, whom they have been in a close relationship with. The purpose of the thesis is to detect the occurrence of posttraumatic growth and to determine in which areas and how the posttraumatic growth manifests in eighteen respondents. Another goal of this thesis is to compare the outcomes with the concepts of Tedeschi and Calhoun, Janoff-Bulman, Joseph and Linley, Hana Valentová and with the research conducted by Finkousová. The theoretical part is dedicated to description of posttraumatic growth, its definitions, models and factors of influence. Further theoretical chapters are dedicated to the topic of death of a close person. The empirical part of the work uses qualitative research using semi-structured interviews with eighteen respondents and subsequent content analysis using open coding. The analysis has revealed seven main areas of posttraumatic growth and their sub-areas: The area of relationships (Family, Care of others), Reconstruction of relationship with self (Self-belief, Importance of health, Independence), The value of life (Change of priorities, Appreciation of life, Fragility of life), A different perspective on the events of daily life, Change of professional direction, New possibilities and Spiritual change. Within the research a few variables have manifested, such as social support, the aspect of a personal faith, theme of realisation of the mortality of self, the aspect of the age of respondents at which a close person dies and the age of the respondents at the time of the research.

KEYWORD

posttraumatic growth, death, adulthood, old age, trauma, coping with loss