

## **Abstract**

My bachelor thesis deals with the differences between male and female dancers in Hip-Hop dance battles. Hip-Hop culture has had a significant impact on those who are a part of it and is based primarily on the African American minority in the United States. It has become an important voice for mostly young people and later spread to other parts of the world. Dance battles are a crucial element of this culture and represent a specific environment in which social reality and gender identity are shaped. I look at the topic of gender through feminist theory and describe the concept of doing gender and hegemonic masculinity that tends to be associated with Hip-Hop battles. I also describe the intersectionality that allows me to consider the categories of gender and race that appear in this thesis. The aim of my work is to understand more about the differences that emerge in Hip-Hop dance battles in relation to the gender identity. In particular, I focus on the movement expression that male and female dancers present in the battles. The empirical part of my work is based on the analysis of four semi-structured interviews with male and female dancers who participate in Hip-Hop battles. I combine these findings with an analysis of Hip-Hop dance battle videos, in which I focus on one male and one female dancer. As the main finding of my thesis, I would like to mention that the male and female dance movement expression within the Hip-Hop battles does not manifest as distinctly different due to the gender identity of the participants, even though a more normative gendered conception of dance movement emerges in the interviews conducted. The theme of aggression or physical strength is also crucial in achieving success in the Hip-Hop battle.