

Abstract

Sense of place and place attachment are topics that resonate within the discourse of subject didactics, including geography education, and is also reflected in the new Framework Educational Program for Basic Education. Although research on the concept of sense of place in geographical education is well-developed in foreign literature, this is not the case in the Czech context. The aim of this dissertation is to partially change this situation and contribute to greater academic interest in researching sense of place and place attachment, as well as their more effective implementation in the educational process in Czechia.

The theoretical part of the dissertation presents the theoretical foundations used in the research part. It addresses the concept of place; the interaction between place and person; the concept of sense of place; place and place attachment in geographical and environmental education; the local landscape and region; the concept of regional identity; and the relationship to nature and field education. The goal of this section is to provide a theoretical definition of the concept of sense of place within geography education.

The research section presents the results of seven studies. The specification of research topics and the resulting research questions were based on an extensive literature review of the concept of sense of place in geography (and environmental) education. Five main areas of research topics are defined: exploring the issue of sense of place in published research in geography education; examining students' attachment to their local region and their favourite places; investigating the meanings of places and the local region for students; exploring the relationship between students' well-being and their contact with places and nature; and examining the impact of geography field education on students' sense of place. The aim of the research part is to determine what meaning students attach to place and which factors influence this meaning, thereby providing answers to the research questions. The effort is also to outline directions for further research on the concept of sense of place in education and to initiate a discussion on this topic.

The application part of the dissertation offers suggestions for implementing the concept of sense of place in geography education (primarily through geography field education, which is inspired by both foreign practices and the concept of place-based education) and discusses the relevance of the sense of place topic in contemporary geography education.

Keywords (in alphabetical order)

environmental education; fieldwork; geography education; place; place attachment; place meaning; regional identity; sense of place