

Abstract

This bachelor thesis explores the ideas of lifelong learning using the perspective of the original Confucian philosophy. The aim of the thesis is to identify the basic ideas of lifelong learning in the original Confucian philosophy. The thesis first examines Confucius and the philosophy based on his ideas. Then the topic of lifelong learning is covered in terms of its definition, its ideological foundations and the documents of international organisations that focus on it. The issue of differences in approaches to education and learning in Western and Eastern cultures is then addressed. The aim of the empirical investigation is to compare the ideas of lifelong learning in the Eastern approach of the original Confucian philosophy with the declared ideas of the European Union. The investigation is carried out by comparing the four canonical books of Confucianism, which are The Analects, The Great Learning, The Doctrine of the Mean and Mencius, with the fundamental policy document Memorandum on Lifelong Learning of 2000 issued by the European Commission, and also with the more recent document from the Council of the European Union Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning of 2018.

Keywords: lifelong learning, lifelong education, Confucius, Confucianism, education policy European Union