

## **Cross-cultural study: beauty and emotions evoked by animals in Roma community**

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#### *Abstract:*

Animals have been present throughout human development, evoking a wide range of emotions and reactions, including beauty, fear, and disgust. This bachelor's thesis examines the intercultural comparison of the aesthetic evaluation of animals between Roma culture and the Slovak majority culture. The animal sample was selected to include species with presumed cultural significance in Roma culture and species commonly found in Slovakia. The research aims to determine whether these two cultures differ in their perception of animal beauty and to interpret any intercultural differences.

The study combines quantitative and qualitative approaches, utilizing anthropological field observations, data collection, and statistical analysis. The results suggest that aesthetic preferences are shaped by both universal mechanisms and cultural narratives. Respondents evaluate animals similarly, regardless of their cultural background, although notable exceptions exist for certain species. This thesis connects empirical data with cultural analysis, contributing to the understanding of the role of culture in perceiving animal beauty and to the broader exploration of culturally conditioned and universal aspects of aesthetic preferences.

**Keywords:** beauty, emotions, crosscultural study, Roma culture, human preferences