

The bachelor thesis “Experiencing the body and self-concept in people with acquired physical disability” tries to reveal how people with acquired physical disability perceive their physical body and how changes in physical experience and self-concept are intertwined. The work draws primarily from literature dealing with the philosophy of the body, the health consequences of paralysis and self-concepts within the range of social psychology. The second source is six interviews conducted with people after spinal cord injury in which I ask the circumstances of paralysis and the physical and psychological experiencing of paralysis. Based on literature review and interviews it is not possible to say that the change of the body is the primary trigger for changes in self-perception, however, the paralyzed body gets extra attention. It includes the lowered height position, health complications, the consequences arising from the loss of sensation in the affected parts or the need for increased care for physical fitness. People with such injury face a different view of the society, transformation in the partnership’s role, insecurity in self-confidence and other facts, which are generally reflected in their self-concept.