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Bakalářská práce

**The Past and Present of Czech Communities in
English-Speaking Countries: the case study of
Canada, Australia and New Zealand**

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1. Introduction

Migration of people and nations has always been significant for the development of humankind throughout history. As the title makes evident, this bachelor thesis deals with Czechs who emigrated because of a political reasons, Canada, Australia and New Zealand meant the freedom. I chose this topic because I am astonished by the courage of people who decided to leave their homes and start to live a new life in such distant country.

The thesis is divided into three main parts on the basis of individual countries. To introduce English-speaking country in the first part, where is mentioned the important facts about the location and Czech compatriots in countries. The second part is characteristically longer because deals with the history of the Czech community. This third part is dedicated to significant people of Czech origin in Canada, Australia and New Zealand who influenced or contributed to culture or society.

2. CANADA

2.1. Information and facts

Canada is one of the three countries in North America and the second largest country in the world in area. The land mass is spread on the area of 3,511,023 square miles (9,093,507 square km). In the 31st January 2019, the amount of residents living in the country was estimated to 37,314,442. According to the official Canadian census of 2016, the Czech community of compatriots had 24,975 people at that time but it is estimated up to 150,000 people. The compatriot community in Canada is the second largest Czech community of compatriots in the world. The majority of Czech compatriots are concentrated around Toronto (6,595) and other communities live in urban areas like metropolitan cities - Calgary (1,425), Edmonton (1,072), Montréal (1,575), Ottawa (1,060), Vancouver (4,120). According to counted administrative provinces in Canada, most Czechs live in Ontario (11,980), British Columbia (5,960) and the third in the series is Alberta (3,135). [1,2]

2.2. History

The first person with Czechoslovak roots in Canada was Tomáš Štítnický, also called Parmenius or Budaeus. Štítnický was member of the crew on the Squirrel ship, which dropped anchor in August 1583 in the port of St. John in Newfoundland. Other Czech migrants who arrived to Canada, were groups of Moravian Brethren. They built settlement, including church and village around it and they called Farfield. [3]

The massive immigration of Czechoslovak population in Canada began in the second half of the nineteenth century. Most of the first Czech and Slovak settlers came rather from the United States than directly from continental Europe. One of the first migrants in Toronto was Jozef Ballon, who came in 1878 and established a firework factory. In 1884, four Czech farmer families – the

Doležals, the Juneks, the Pangrács and the Skokans – came to the District of Assiniboia (today's Saskatchewan) and founded a hamlet called Kolin. Count Paul Esterhazy initiated with more organized settlement. He founded the First Hungarian-American Colonization Company and contacted the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was invited to see the farmlands in Manitoba and the Assiniboia District, so that he could start to organize the farm settlements of that region. There were a several Czechoslovak miners families sent to the Minnedosa region of Western Manitoba. [4]

The greatest influx of compatriots to Canada came after 1920. At that time, Canada had a very liberal emigration policy. The Czechoslovak compatriots settled mainly in the fertile parts of southern Ontario and near dolls in Alberta and British Columbia. After World War I, the census of 1920 showed that about 9,000 Czechs and Slovaks live in Canada. Both ethnic groups settled mainly in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. Groups of farmers were concentrated in the rural settlements, especially in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario. However, working and craft occupations prevailed among Czechoslovak immigrants.

The mass immigration wave of Czechs and Slovaks to Canada came after the First World War and especially after 1923, when the United States radically reduced the immigration quotas. Canada became a popular destination for social and economic migration from Czechoslovakia at that time. To work migrated families, especially from Moravia and Slovakia. Then the survey showed changed profil of migrants, so that it was mainly young people between 20 and 30 years old, men had the superiority in numbers, especially married men. The majority of them were the miners, farmers and less educated people. [5,6]

The Czechoslovak immigrants were attracted by Ford Motor Company in Windsor, Ontario. In 1923 a group of Czechs and Slovaks came there and

started to work as shopkeepers or building the contractors for the Ford Motor Company. The Canadian census of 1931 revealed 30,000 citizens of Czech and Slovak origin. Mainly workers and craftsmen came to the largest cities such as Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. Before the outbreak of World War II, over 40,000 compatriots lived in Canada, of which 26,000 were of Slovak origin. A large group of Czechoslovak immigrants moved to Batawa in Ontario, where Thomas J. Bata founded Bata Shoe Company. [7]

In the early 1950s, there were 64,000 Czechs and Slovaks living in Canada. The number of expatriates increased the political emigration after Czechoslovak coup d'état in 1948. However, the introduction of military guards on the Czechoslovak border reduced the number of immigrants to Canada. Only 2,500 people could leave Czechoslovakia and emigrated to Canada through refugee camps in Germany and Austria. Another migration wave occurred after Prague Spring in 1968, the Canadian Government granted asylum to 12,000 refugees from Czechoslovakia. [8]

2.3. Cultural influence of Czechs

The first organization founded by immigrants were self-help associations. In 1905 Czechoslovak miners built their first church in Coleman, Alberta, and two years later founded their first parish in Ontario, Fort William. František Dojáček, one of the enterprising personalities, established a Czecho-Slav Benevolent Association in Winnipeg in 1913, after the declaration of the Czechoslovak Republic known as Canadian – Czechoslovak Benevolent Association. In general, Winnipeg became the main centre of Czechoslovak patriotic work during the First World War. Czech immigrants supported the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris and they even enlisted in the Bohemian Detachment of the 223rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Battalion was later named Canadian Scandinavians, because most of its officers

were of Scandinavian extraction. At the end of April 1917 they participated in fights in France and Flanders. [9]

The great expansion of Czechoslovak self-help associations occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. Czechoslovak immigrants felt the need to gather together and to help each other. A special organization was Czechoslovak Mutual Benefit Society, which split into two organizations after a few years of operation. First Slovak Mutual Benefit Society was established in 1928 in Alberta and The National Slovak Mutual Benefit Society of Canada in 1932 in Ontario. These two organizations united in 1946 and approved Canadian Slovak Benefit Society as a new name six years later. Among the activities of thus formed organization were for instance building the community and the national houses in a number of cities, building of Štefániktown centre and publishing the magazine Slovenský hlas (Slovak Voice) and it had 45 branches in Canada. In 1934 a support organization was established, significantly left-wing, The Slovak Benefit Society of Canada. Under the leadership of the organization was publishing the magazine Hlas ľudu (Voice of the People). [10]

The Czechoslovak (Toronto) Credit Union Limited is the only financial institution of its kind. The organization manages deposits of many millions of dollars, and the founder of the institution was Josef Kyselka. A significant role in the business relationship between Canada and the Czech Republic has been played by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic since the early 1990s. The first President was Tomáš Baťa and its executive director was Lubomír Novotný. The organization aims to help its clients introduce business activities and, further, to connect them with potential business partners within Chamber. At the last general meeting, Jiří Krejča was elected as president and Thomas Hruby was elected as an executive director. Currently, the organization holds many events to connect entrepreneurs with foreign investors, and to support the mutual business of both countries. [11]

2.3.1. Czech and Slovak Association of Canada (CSAC)

The Czechoslovak National Association of Canada was established at a congress in Church of All Nations in Toronto in 1939. The name was later changed from the original National Alliance of Slovaks, Czechs and Carpathian Ruthenians to Czechoslovak Association of Canada, and after the Velvet revolution of Czechoslovakia in 1989, into the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada. It was established as political organization with its own structure – the first President of this organization was Štefan Rudinský, the Honorary President was František Pavlásek, and Karel Buzek held important post of Secretary-General. During World War II, the Association consisted of 91 branches across Canada (thanks to the magnificent effort of Karel Buzek) with membership of 6,500. Karel Buzek helped to establish the Czechoslovak Relief Fund in Canada, that founded the Czechoslovak Forces in the United Kingdom. The importance and respect of Canadian authorities towards Czechoslovak Association was also shown by the appointment of Karel Buzek to director of the Canadian United Allied Relief Fund.

The excellent war effort was celebrated in Toronto in November 1945 by the "Victory Congress" chaired by Slovak Ján Gažo and there were defined three main goals of the Association for the post-war times: support of Canadian citizenship, the maintaining of Czech and Slovak cultural heritage and financial support for post-war Czechoslovakia.

Currently, the Czech and Slovak Association of Canada organizes for its members the concerts, discussions, literary programs and other various events. Besides organizing, another area of the Association is awarding of Masaryk award. The award is the highest recognition of the Association and it is given to Czechoslovak Canadians or societies that achieved significant goals in various fields or that contributed to the independence of Czechs and Slovaks. [12, 13, 14]

2.3.2. Masaryktown

Another important Czechoslovak organization is Masaryk Memorial Institute Inc., situated in Toronto, Ontario. Gustav Přístupa was co-founder and the first President of this organization. Masaryktown was established in February 1945 thanks to 203 donors who contributed a significant amount of money. Masaryk Hall was purchased in order to meet social needs and cultural interests of Czechs and Slovaks in Toronto. After the request of members of Masaryk Hall, the organization purchased a farm in Highland Creek in Scarborough in 1948, currently known as Masaryktown. Thanks to willing volunteers and generous donations, fast pace of renovation and construction passed off. Building with library, restaurant (Prague restaurant) and a swimming pool were built there during the following year and this created an ideal place for summer camps that take place there every year.

In 1960, Masaryk Hall Inc. was changed to Masaryk Memorial Institut Inc. and has been operating under this name ever since. The Institut played a significant role in education after moving of administration centre to Masaryktown where is situated Masaryk Hall library and it established by a professional librarian (Julie Novotná). Czech school is a significant part of Masaryktown with educational programs offered to children 5 to 12 years of age. The Czech Foreign Ministry supplies the latest educational material and children's story books on a regular basis. Masaryk Memorial Institut publish its informative and inspiring newspaper. The first Czech and Slovak language publication came out in March 1950. Nowadays it provides Masaryk Park Homes for seniors of 55 years of age or more and it creates a cultural community of all ages. [15]

2.3.3. Sokol

The first Sokol units in Canada were founded in Michel, British Columbia, Frank and Alberta in 1911. In 1928 a Sokol units were founded in Montreal,

Quebec, and one year later in Winnipeg and Manitoba. In 1932 another unit was founded in the Goldberg area of Saskatchewan, Toronto and after eight years in Batawa, Kitchener and Windsor. The last Canadian Sokol unit was founded in Vancouver in 1969.

The number of Sokol units increased by the number of immigrants in Canada and most of the units were named after Czech and Slovak heroes. The second unit in Montreal was named after the first president of Czechoslovakia *Sokol Masaryk*. In 1952 was establishment of Sokol Gymnastic Association of Canada (Sokol Canada). The activities of Sokol Canada culminate in Slets - as gymnastic performances - held in different cities every year. Number of Slets was held in Batawa and after the war. Slets were held annually at Masaryktown as perhaps the main event of the Czechoslovak Day.

Although currently Sokol is losing the influence, it still runs in bigger cities like Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. Its renowned glory and philosophy is undoubtedly known worldwide. [16]

2.3.4. Art

One of the most important activities is folkloric dance showing the Czech culture. The first Czechoslovak folklore club was founded in Winnipeg presented by two dancing groups – *Věneček* and *Furiant Club*. Both of these groups are led by Czech dance champion Vladka Zvoníková. An important place of folklore activities is the Church of St. Antonín in Ontario. The Independent Dance Group is performing in Montreal under the direction of Laval Perníčkové and it is part of Sokol Canada. In the 1950s and 1960s there was a very active group of *Kroužek moravských Slováků* in Toronto, in which they especially excelled: Oldřich Bobek, Jan Kunovjánek and Jan Červeňák. A great deal of work is being done by the Moravka Group in Toronto leading by Marie Gajdová, which contributes a considerable part to the ethnographic activity in Canada.

Other Czech cultural wealth in Canada is New Theatre in Toronto. The tradition of performing a Czech and Slovak play started in 1933 by plays of country and forestry setting. The performances and rehearsals took place in many different locations, even in Slovak Catholic Church or apartments of actors, very often directed by Bedřich Rezek. New Theatre started its activity with the performance of *Švanda dudák* in 1951 and its most successful productions were *Maryša* and *R.U.R.* Besides that New Theatre hosted number of well-known and significant actors, such as Stella Zázvorková, Jiří Voskovec and Milan Lasica.

The competition of New Theatre is Theatre Around the Corner (Divadlo za rohem). The Czech and Slovak Theatre Around the Corner was founded in 1976 in Vancouver, British Columbia, by Jarmila Smékalová and Marta Niklová. Currently, Theatre Around the Corner has changed its name to Corner Theatre Academy and puts on the stage many plays.

Theatre of Poetry offered poetry readings of many excellent reciters, such as Zdenka Novotná, Tomáš Macek, and published two publications rich in content dealing about history of New Theatre in Toronto and its tenth anniversary. [17,18]

2.3.5 Czech compatriot media in Canada

The bountifulness of Czech compatriot life in Canada is also evidenced by the press. Undoubtedly, the publishing of newspapers and magazines, was one the ways to keep in touch with people in Czechoslovakia. Due to the press, Czechoslovak immigrants in Canada were well-informed what was happening in their forming Czechoslovakia.

The first periodical in Czech and Slovak language was published in Blairmore, Alberta in 1910 under the name Slovenské slovo (Slovak word). It

was edited by George Kleskeň and lasted about a year. It was followed by Slovenské bratrstvo (Slovak Brotherhood) with subtitle: Orgán Demokratických Slovákov v Kanadě (Authority of Democratic Slovaks in Canada), commenced publication in 1929 in Montreal, and later changed its name to Slovenský priekopník (Slovak Pioneer). Naše slovo or Hlas ľudu was strongly leftist and its publishing was stopped for anti-war propaganda after nine years. Kanadské noviny or Kanadský Slovák was published under Canadian Slovak league, the separatist organization which spread hate of everything Czechoslovak. On the completely opposite opinion held the magazine Naše Snahy, which came out bimonthly as a rule.

The very oldest regularly published magazine in the Czech language was Naše vlast (Our Fatherland) that started publication in Montreal in 1934. As a chronical of the lives of foreign soldiers, there was a newspaper called Kanadské listy, whose publication ended in 2009. [19]

The most widespread compatriot magazine in Canada which continues until today is Nový domov (New Homeland). The first issue was published in 1950 by Masaryk Memorial Institute Inc. The bi-weekly magazine is available in printed as well as online version and based on democratic traditions. Among the most important contributors to the magazine were Josef Škvorecký or Josef Čermák.

Satellite 1-416 is an independant and well-known newspaper that come out five times a year. Aleš Březina is owner and important contributors as well as Antonín Cekota. Politically tuned magazine in Canada is Západ (The West), Evropská Federace (European Federation) and K-231 as a publication of the Club of Former Czechoslovak Political Prisoners in Exile. [20]

Sixty-Eight Publishers, or 68 Publishers, was Czech exile publishing house founded by Zdena Salivarová-Škvorecká and her husband Josef

Škvorecký in Toronto in 1971. The name 68 Publishers is related to memory of the Prague Spring of 1968. The aim of 68 Publishers was publish books by exiled Czech and Slovak writers whose literary works were banned by communism in Czechoslovakia. Moreover Škvorecký's books, Salivarová and Škvorecký published many Czech originals and English translations by other authors like Bohumil Hrabal, Karel Kryl, Milan Kundera, Jaroslav Seifert. In 1993, the publishing house ceased its activity and published over 220 works of mostly original prose, poetry and memoir literature. [21]

The television and radio programs were available on local stations of many branches. The Federal Government made provision and granted licence for various ethnic groups thanks to the multicultural policy. One of the first radio program was Radio Bohemia AM 530 that started in 2001. Among the first broadcasts were The Chronicle of Czechs and Slovaks in the Kitchener Region from 1978 to 1990. The creator of this program regularly broadcasted news, political commentary and interviews. Another televisions program in Canada were Czechoslovak Kaleidoscope broadcasted from Ottawa, or Slovak-Canadian Television program broadcasted from Vancouver between 1998 and 2001. All these mentioned and broadcasting programs broadcasted the visits of politicians or celebrities and lives of immigrants.

The longest running Czech television in Canada is Television Nova Vize. The establishment of television was in 2003 in Toronto with the initiative of Markéta Slepíčková. The purpose of TV station is to inform about the activities of the Czech community in Ontario and other provinces. Nova Vize spreads awareness of Czech culture, Czech language and shows successful and talented people of Czech origin living in Canada. The television is supported mostly by Czech entrepreneurs living in Canada and received a financial gift from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic every year. [22]

2.3.6. Famous Czechs

This third part is dedicated to significant people of Czech origin in Canada, who influenced or contributed to Canadian culture or society. Below are mentioned just several prominent people who became famous somehow.

Tomas Bata Jr., was the son of famous Czech shoemaker Tomas Bata. He moved to the United States after the invasion of Nazi Germany to Czechoslovakia in 1939 and he became a Canadian citizen in 1942. He served as captain in the Canadian Army and was appointed honorary colonel in 1999. He founded the new headquarters of Bata Shoe Company near Trenton, Ontario. He and a hundred of skilled workers and managers managed Bata Shoe Company with more than a hundred factories in several countries around the world. During World War II Bata Shoe Company had more modern machinery than Canadians, so the company made also weapons for Canadian Army. Later, Tomas Bata Jr. became a board member and ambassador for the Czech Republic and Slovakia for non-profit educational organization Junior Achievement International. In 1992, he founded the Bata Foundation for young and beginning entrepreneurs. [23, 24]

Josef Skvorecky is a prominent representative of Czechoslovak exile in Canada and Czech author. He came to Canada after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. In 1971, he established a publishing house – 68 Publishers, with his wife Zdena Salivarova. This organization allowed publishing of 220 literary works of banned writers in Czechoslovakia. [25]

Joe Schlesinger is one of the most important journalist in Canada. He was born in Vienna to parents who lived in Czechoslovakia. Schlesinger is one of the hundreds of saved children Nicholas Winston. In 1950, he fled to Canada after putsch in Czechoslovakia in 1948. He worked for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and became an international correspondent.

Nicholas Goldschmidt was a conductor, teacher and artistic director from Czechoslovakia. In 1946, he moved to Canada and was appointed the first principal of the Royal Conservatory Opera School and its musical director. In 1978, Goldschmidt was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and was promoted to Companion in 1989. [26]

3. Australia

3.1. Information and facts

Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, can be described as the smallest continent and one of the largest countries on Earth. Its landmass is spread on the area of 2,969,907 square miles (7,692,024 square km). In the 31 December 2018, the amount of residents living in the country was estimated to 25,341,700 people. According to the official Australian census of 2006, the Czech community of compatriots had 21,196 people at that time but it is estimated up to 27,000 people. It is necessary to add another 5,000 Czechs who study in Australia and 1,000 who work there. Recent figures from the Consulate in Sydney in October 2009 indicate a growing number of Czechs with long-term residence and permanent residence.

The current estimate of permanently living Czechs ranges from 27,000 to 35,000 people. This estimate does not include Czech tourists, whose number also grows. During 2003 and 2008, the number of Czech tourists increased by 43%, it is around 5,300 Czech tourists in Australia every year. [27]

Compatriot communities are concentrated in the largest Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne, and smaller communities around Canberra, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth. Most of Czechs live in Sydney, where is concentrated about 36% compatriots. The second largest group of compatriots live in Melbourne, it is 27% of Czech compatriots. [28]

3.2. History

Written evidence of the first Czech settlers who set foot on the Australian mainland arrived in the eighteenth century with the Spanish Navy. Tadeáš Haenke was member of Spanish scientific expedition to Australia in 1793. The second known Czech who stayed permanently in Australia was Mark Blucher, who was born in Prague in 1801. As a young man he left Prague and fled to Germany where he purloined some lace and subsequently deported to Australian jail in March 1830. After serving his sentence, he settled in Sydney. [29]

A larger number of Czech compatriots moved to Australia in the interwar period due to economic and social causes. Most Czech immigrants settled around Sydney. In 1921, the number of Czech and Slovak migrants increased to 264. Between 1928 and 1936, the number of Czechoslovak emigrants increased by 313 persons, but total number of Czechoslovak compatriots in Sydney decreased to 40 persons. During World War II, the Australian Czechoslovaks participated in the fighting on side of the anti-Hitler coalition. [30]

The greatest influx of Czechoslovak compatriots to Australia came after February 1948. At that time, new Czechoslovak incomers were faced with huge difficulties in the field of employment, because Australian Workers' Union took a refused attitude to provision job vacancies. The only solution was to sign a two-year employment contract that provides a job vacancy without right to choose. Another and much larger wave of Czechoslovak immigration to Australia came after August 1968. [31]

3.3. Cultural influence of Czechs

Australia preferred the immigration only from Anglo-Saxon region before the war on the basis of Immigration Restriction Act from 1901 that gave preferential treatment to Anglo-Saxon settlers and discriminated the immigrants from Europe. During this period the Czech compatriots lacked a communication network and the environment that would make life easier and facilitate the adaptation process of people in exile. [32]

After Second World War, Australia was one of the few countries that actively promoted the immigration and offered plenty of job opportunities. People who fled Czechoslovakia after the occupation by Warsaw Pact troops found a well-organised community of Czech compatriots and their adaptation was easier. [33]

The multiple migrant wave from Czechoslovakia has created a strong exile subculture in Australia. The part of the unique cultural community of compatriots is an astonishing quantity of the press, theatre, education, Czech and Slovak radio broadcasting, literature and fine arts.

3.3.1. Czech press

The Czech exile created the strong communication platform across the world, represented mainly by the print media and radio media. Australia is one of the most active regions, with the total number of titles published reaching around 70,000 pieces between 1948 and 1989. This wide range of exile newspapers and magazines captures the situation in which the Czech exile found in Australia. [34]

The effort to maintain the national identity and national awareness through the press was generally the main idea of exile in Australia. Despite of wide range of press, the exile periodical suffered from a number of maladies.

For instance, most exile publishers did not have a professional journalistic education and experience with publishing. The graphic, linguistic, stylistic and grammatical degrees were missing the texts of publications. As a result, many periodicals went bankrupt or forced to reduce the cost of prints.

Hlas domova, the most significant and first Czech printed periodical in Australia and New Zealand, that was published for three decades and was favoured in other countries. The first issue of the magazin was published in 1950 by Josef Rýpar as a mass letter, because the publishing the Australian authorities banned the publication of periodicals in foreign languages. The magazine informed regarding the news from Czechoslovakia, information about Czechoslovak exiles in the world and charitable societies in Australia. [35]

The cessation of magazine publishing led to the greatest losses of Czechoslovak exile culture in Australia. One of the main and regular contributors to the articles in the magazine was Ferdinand Peroutka. Hlasy Čechů a Slováků v Austrálii, Panoráma and Slovenský štít were an independant an well-known newspapers which replaced the positiion of Hlas Domova. [36]

The deep awareness of Czechoslovak culture in Australia was mediated by number of magazines in which the literary works and their reviews were regularly published. The magazines also brought the interviews with exiled artists or reports on cultural events. Fon instance, the monthly journal *Revue* was one of the first literary magazine of Czech exile in Australia. The *Revue* was

published in the first half of 50 years in Brisbane by Jan Pavel Tuček. The magazine printed not only the literary work of exiled writers, but also several book volumes of poetry and prose. [37]

From 1970 to 1985 was publishing another magazine *Beseda* by Jan Pavel Tuček again. The magazine was focused more on the reflection essay on history and culture. In addition, the magazine encouraged the satire on behalf of the communist regime in Europe. The *Beseda* magazine was renewed by the the Czechoslovak–Australian Association of Canberra and Region in 2012 and the magazine is printed currently as quaterly periodical. [38]

The current and important magazine is *Klokan*, which is published on a monthly basis and is one of the regular contributors of information and supporters the languages, national traditions and cultural heritage of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The publication is provided by the Czech and Slovak Association of Western Australia. [39]

3.3.2. Czech education

To maintain the national identity for next generation, there was an effort to establish Czechoslovak schools with the plan to teach the subjects related to national culture and maintain the Czech and Slovak language.

All the time, the schools were established and closed for children according to current circumstances. Many parents are fully taken up by with work and the classes took place on weekends as a rule. One of the few schools that operated for a long time was under the leadership of the Sokol organization in Perth.

The situation is not nowadays very distinct from the past, but some working Czechoslovak organizations in Australia maintain the teaching of Czech and Slovak language for children once every two weeks.

3.3.3. Czech institutions

Beseda, the Czechoslovak Australian Association of Canberra and Region, Inc. is one of the most active compatriots organization associating Czechs and Slovaks in Australia. Beseda offers the Czech language school for children from ages 3 to adult to overcome language barriers and maintain the language. The organization supports and commemorates the Czech national traditions, major events and folk customs. In addition, Beseda provides the library services of Czech and Slovak literature and published the patriotic magazine Beseda from 2012, which is published as a quartely periodical.[40]

The Czech and Slovak Association in Western Australia, Inc., is one of the first Czechoslovak organizations in Australia. This non-governmental organization was founded in 1953 as Sdružení dobré vůle by Josef Kučík. The importance of this organization lies in actively conduction of various joint activities and makes every effort to develop friendly relations between countries. The supporting of education the Czech and Slovak language in school and playgroup and organizing of language courses, film festival and preparing the large number of national events in which the Czech and Slovak culture are presented. [41]

The Czechoslovakian Club in Queensland, Inc., was founded sixty years ago by refugees from communist ruled Czechoslovakia in Queensland. This non-govermental organization was established to connect and maintain good relationship and support among members of the Czech and Slovak

communities. To foster the traditions of national heritage and provide the educational opportunities for children and adult by regularly published newspapers *Krajanské listy*. [42]

3.3.4. Radio broadcast

The radio is indisputably the most reachable means of communication, apart from the press. The first attempt to found the radio station ran into two difficulties. The financial costs of paying for air time comprised one obstacle and the achievement of broadcasting license in foreign languages second one.

The very first attempt of Czechoslovak broadcasting took place on February 29, 1952 in Sydney. And since that date, the news in the Czech and Slovak languages has been broadcast once a week on the UW radio station. However, the Australian authorities soon disagreed and the broadcasting in foreign languages was banned for some time.

Only after the growing pressure of individual ethnic groups in the 1970s did the concept of the Australian authorities the abandoning of restrictions. The municipal authorities in Australia gave the permission for assimilation of favor of multiculturalism and minorities. The independent radio broadcasting in the Czech and Slovak language was officially enabled after 1976 on the fifth largest continent in the world.[43]

3.3.5 Czech art

Two important and rare paintings and authors are responsible for the awareness of Czech art in Australia. Jiří (George) Chaloupka was a pioneer in the field of prehistory, who gave a sense of the paintings of the Wardaman tribe

in the Arnhem Land. Chaloupka held the position of curator of The Northern Territory Museum in Darwin and under his tutelage, the prestigious George Chaloupka Fellowship was established as an organization to support the study and the documentation of rock art by the Aboriginals in Australia. [44]

The second significant element of Czech art is the embellishment by method of sgraffito used in the St Gertrude's in New Norcia, which was created by Josef Kučik. [45]

3.3.6. Entrepreneurship

The greatest Czech business successes have taken place and are still taking place in the least populous and the smallest state in Tasmania.

Milan Vyhnálek, nicknamed "The Cheese King and The Czech Cheese Pioneer", gradually built one of the largest companies in the field of dairy farming and cheese making industry in Australia through skill and clever marketing. Like the others, after migration to Australia, he had to participate in the Displaced Persons Program in Australia, under two-year contract of employment. The programme primarily included the manual work for the development of Australian territory in the field of raw material extraction or the road construction. In the 1950s, he founded *Lactos* into the largest considerable exporter of specialty cheeses and received a number of awards in Australia and abroad as well. In 1980, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire by the British Queen for his merits in the food processing industry. A year later, *Lactos* was bought by the giant French firm *Bongrain* and Vyhnálek returned to the Czech Republic and spent his pension here. [46]

Josef Chromý, as a butcher from Vysočina region, opened his own butcher's shop in Tasmania in 1957 and over time began operating his own farms, abattoirs and ham factory. In recent years, he leads an active life and creative work dedicated to successful business in the wine industry.[47]

Frank Lowy, undoubtedly the currently best renowned man of Czechoslovak origin in Australia. „ He has assembled an enviable list of acquisitions: shopping centres and palatial homes, planes and boats and myriad forms of personalised transport more commonly associated with mass transit. He's been a board member of the Reserve Bank, president of the Art Gallery of NSW and has been knighted for his contribution to the UK economy. " [48]

To be worthy of notice the Czech inventor Ladislav Karpíšek, who contributed to the development with the innovation of the shipping container. [49]

3.3.7. Czech science

František Popovský was one of the Bata corporation worker who emigrated to Australia in the 1969 and soon rose to fame by world's invention of disposable syringe and device of conversion of miles into kilometers which were installed in the cars across Australia. [50]

With the contribution of the development of Slavic studies is considered Jiří Marvan, who established the Slavic development at Monash University in Melbourne. The Monash University awards the best students of Slavism the George Marvan Prize up to now. After returning to the Czech Republic, Marvan taught at universities, even in Pilsen. [51]

3.3.8. Sport

Although Australia is associated with a dry and hot climate, due to impact of Czech active athletes, the Alpine skiing has become more popular in this country. The Czech couple Antonín Nešpor and Alexandra Nekvapilová, who participated in the 1948 Olympic Games, are behind the inception of Thredbo – the first Australian winter sports resort, situated on the highest mountain Mount Kosciuszko. They established a ski school, Hotel Sasa's Lodge and Sponar's Inn and the marketing of ski clothing. This resort is one of the most visited turistic centres in Australia up to now. [52]

4. New Zealand

4.1. Information and facts

New Zealand, also called Aotearoa, is the Maori name and literal translation of "land of the long white cloud". This island country has been inhabited by Maori since approximately 1300 AD. New Zealand is situated in the southwestern Pacific Ocean and geographically comprises two main landmasses – the North Island, the South Island, and around 600 smaller islands. The land mass is spread on the area of 103,483 square miles (268,021 square km). In the 31 December 2017, the amount of residents living in the country was estimated to 4,796,000. According to the official New Zealand census of 2001, the Czech community of compatriots had 969 people at that time. The census survey shows that in the 2001, there were 177 Slovaks living in New Zealand. However, the current estimate is 6,000 – 9,000 Czechs and Slovaks living in New Zealand, including 643 residents, i.e. citizens of the Czech Republic who have permanently relocated after 1997. Czech compatriot community is mainly concentrated around the two largest cities of the North Island, Wellington and Auckland, where associations of compatriots comprising both Czechs and Slovaks works in the territory. The compatriot association in Wellington was founded in 1968, an association in Auckland in 1984. Smaller groups of compatriots live on the South Island. [32, 33, 34]

4.2. History

The first Czech settlement of migrants from Austro-Hungarian Empire was founded in New Zealand in the 1860s. A total of 83 migrants from Stod near, the fourth largest city in the Czech Republic, Pilsen and its surroundings came to New Zealand under the command of naval captain Martin Krippner. [35]

Krippner was a native of Stod, who received a better education than many of his contemporaries and studied law at Charles university in Prague. In 1842,

Martin Krippner joined the Austrian army and rose to the rank of captain. Later on, he obtained the Order of the Red Eagle by the kingdom of Prussia. When Krippner was 43 years old, he settled at Orewa in New Zealand and obtained permission from the Auckland provincial government to arrange a Bohemian colony on the river Puhoi, i.e. 50 kilometres from Auckland. On the 26 February 1863, as a one group of Czech and German families set out for journey from Prague, via an ancient town Gravesend in the United Kingdom, by boat called *War Spirit* to New Zealand, which took 106 days. During the journey, 7 children were born to the migrants and one member of the expedition died after destructive ocean storm. [36, 37]

Under the agreement, the New Zealand government allowed to each new resident 40 acres of land; provided that the settler arrives on island at its own expense. In total, the Czech-German group in New Zealand received 16 hectares of land and founded the village of Puhoi. [38]

Another wave of Czech migrants moving to New Zealand dates back from 1866 to 1876, many of them received 40 acres of land too. These groups of immigrants from Stod were led by Lorenzo Schischka. Their arrival was much easier because of the first settlers built the prosperous settlement by their own hands in wilderness area. Most of them made a living by the selling of agricultural and hand-crafted products to Auckland. In 1881, they built the Church Of Saints Peter and Paul, in which windows are mentioned Czech names of those who contributed to its construction. Even before the World War I., a state school and church were built and the colonized area got name „Puhoi - Bohemian settlement“. [39]

The second eminent Bohemian native having a significant influence on all New Zealand generations, including many of Māori people, was Gottfried Lindauer. To avoid being drafted to the Austro-Hungarian army he sailed to New Zealand, where his painting talent manifested in portraits of Māori chiefs and

warriors. In his paintings he captured an era that will never come back, the Māori traditional way of life in their villages. [40]

The next wave of immigrants who migrated to New Zealand in 1939, this time from Czechoslovakia, mostly consisted of Czech Jews fleeing Europe from Hitler. In most cases, they were doctors, architects, businessmen, entrepreneurs, but also tailors, watchmakers, or furniture makers. Whether intellectuals or craftspeople, they soon began to use their experiences well in New Zealand and achieved a high social status. [41]

The last major influx of migrants from Czechoslovakia was followed the Soviet occupation in 1968. At that time, the New Zealand government gave at its own expense to bring a hundred Czech families. With the help of religious organizations came other groups or individuals from the Czech Republic.

Despite the limitations on entering the country during the wartime, New Zealand government made an agreement on visa-free travel with Czechoslovakia, as the only country of the former Soviet Union. The diligence and high level of education of Czechoslovaks were contributive to an agreement. The noticeable group of Czechoslovak immigrants were awarded for their merits by the Order of the British Empire. [42]

4.3. Cultural influence of Czechs

This third section of New Zealand part is concerned with cultural impact of Czech immigrants on society. Our Czech identity is preserved and presented owing to Czech organizations and historical figures in New Zealand. Such organizations began to establish mostly during and after inter-war period because many people from Czech Republic fled the country across the border at that time for political reason. [43]

4.3.1.Czech institutions

The Czech and Slovak Club in New Zealand Inc. in Wellington is one of the first Czechoslovak organizations associating Czech and Slovaks in New Zealand. This non-governmental organization was founded in 1978 in Wellington and has over 100 members. The organization supports and commemorates Czech cultural traditions, folk customs and major events and regularly teaches the Czech language every Wednesday for the general public and organizes the so-called Czech school for children to overcome language barriers. In addition, the organization provides the library services of Czech and Slovak literature and published the patriotic magazine *Střípky – Čriečky* between 2005 and 2015. Each issue of the print magazine brought the latest news that took place in our country, interesting facts from history, crossword puzzles and jokes in order to preserve the Czech and Slovak legacy for compatriots in New Zealand. [44]

The second significant and major organization with extended scope is Czech and Slovak Club in Tauranga. Tauranga Club was established as an incorporated and non-profit organization, which was founded in September 2012, with its own structure – the President of this organization is Petr Faitl. This charity has been founded primarily for the benefit of Czech and Slovak community living in the area of Bay and Waikato in New Zealand. The importance of current Tauranga Club lies in organizing of Czech cultural and social workshops with the intention of approximating community of Czechs and Slovaks in New Zealand. Every year, the organization prepares large number of national events and festivals in which the Czech and Slovak culture are presented.

Tauranga Club contributes to another area of cultural legacy, as an educational mediate between adult compatriots and children, at Czech School and Kindergarten for Czech and Slovak Children. The school provides suitable conditions for children from 0 to 6 years of age and the education is based on

method of total immersion and offer a wide collection of literature in the library. Children are in a totally Czech speaking environment during the lessons. [45]

To maintain good relationship and support amongst members of the Czech and Slovak communities

4.3.2. Famous Czech People

Among the prominent figures living in New Zealand was undoubtedly Frederick Turnovsky. He left the Czech Republic and fled to London after finding out that his name was on Gestapo list in March 1939. A year later, after his marriage, he emigrated to Wellington where he founded a company to produce watch straps and he registered it as Tatra Leather Goods Company. The company became successful and he was thought to be the first resident New Zealander to become a member of Lloyd's, it's the exclusive British firm of insurance underwriters. Under his leadership, Tatra became one of the largest makers of soft leather goods and was even awarded by government Export Award in 1966. Turnovsky represented the New Zealand Manufacturers Federation and was its president from 1972 to 1980. During his presidency, he led many delegations of manufacturers in Australasia and he participated in art. He was involved in the formation of the Wellington Chamber Music Society and was its chairman. In 1953 he was a founding member of the New Zealand Opera Company and Arts Advisory Council also. In 1965 Turnovsky was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services in the field of music. With these special awards, Turnovsky can be considered a very important person of that time. [46]

Mirek Smíšek was one of the most prominent Czech compatriots, who emigrated to Australia after 1948 and then moved permanently to New Zealand where he became a major ceramist. His works of art were exhibited in many places in the world and he won numerous awards. In 2011 he was awarded the Gratias Agit Award by the Czech Foreign Ministry. Smíšek was chosen by Peter

Jackson, director of the famous trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*, to make potteries for aforementioned film. With the help of his wife, he produced a total of 700 ceramic ware in eight months. [47]

Hana Pressburgová survived a total of three concentration camps. During World War II, she was transported to Theresienstadt, then Auschwitz and after that to the concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen. Her life experiences and stories told about the Holocaust for 30 years at schools and universities in New Zealand, where she emigrated after 1948. Pressburgová even organized an exhibition of drawings of children in Theresienstadt and she was awarded for her public activities by the New Zealand state honour Queen's Service Medal. [48]

5. Conclusion

This thesis's object consist of three Czech communities in English-speaking countries and despite the gradual process of assimilation, there is no doubt that several immigration waves of Czechs and Slovaks had to face many hardships in these countries. Needless to say, the process of assimilation of Australian Czechs was one of the complicated case before 1970s than in other countries. On the other hand, the countries were able to receive thousands immigrants and provide them social benefits to meet their needs.

I was able to examine and display the experience of four respondents who lived in these countries and who confirmed to me that currently situation allows to live without any restriction and be a part of different cultures. In addition, many of compatriot organizations with the mixed Czechoslovak membership maintain the heritage. It is appreciative that, despite all the difficulties and the distance, massive Czech ad Slovak influx were able to rise of genuine Czechoslovak culture, including theatre, broadcasting, literature and press.

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8. Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the topic Czech communities in English-speaking countries. One of the main purpose of the thesis is to provide a vast summary of Czech communities in Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the past and present. The second purpose of the thesis is to analyze the contribution and cultural influence of Czech communities in these countries. The thesis is divided into three main parts according to countries. The first chapter provides theoretical information about country and the exact number of Czech emigrants in the country. The second and large part of thesis describes history and the last part is dedicated to the past and present of Czech communities.

9. Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá tématem českých komunit v anglicky mluvících zemích. Jedním z hlavních cílů práce je poskytnout rozsáhlý přehled českých komunit v Kanadě, Austrálii a na Novém Zélandu v minulosti i současnosti. Druhým cílem práce je analyzovat přínos a kulturní vliv českých komunit v těchto zemích. Práce je rozdělena do tří hlavních částí podle zemí. První kapitola poskytuje teoretické informace o zemi a přesném počtu českých emigrantů v zemi. Druhá a rozsáhlá část práce popisuje historii a poslední část je věnována minulosti a současnosti českých komunit.

10. Appendicies

Appendix I:

Name: Zaneta Kapnobulosova

Age: 36

Occupation: Receptionist

Place of stay in Canada: Montreal

1) What have led you move to Canada and why have you chosen Canada as a destination of your stay?

For me, it was an adventure. I was curious about the French accent in Québec. In the Czech republic, I was a teacher of French. I decided to participate in the program of Working Holiday. Then, I met my boyfriend here so that is why I stayed in Canada. He was the only reason for staying here !

2) How long have you already been in Canada? And are you satisfied there?

I have been here for six years and I am happy here.

3) During your first year in Canada, was it hard to find a job, new friends ?

No, It was not difficult for me.

4) What are the attitudes of Canadian people toward you as a Czech? Have you experienced any troubles? (if so, what was it) And do you think there are any stereotypes against Czechs in Canada?

Canadian people are nice to the Czechs. Generally, they find us smart ! I have never experienced any trouble with them. Maybe, I would mention that the role of men and women is in the same level. Canadian women are independent. Unfortunately, they often associate us with Russia and they think that we are poor.

5) Have you got in touch with Czech culture in Canada? (Czech organization, festival, restaurant)

Yes, I do.

6) Do you plan to live in Canada permanently or just for a certain time and then come back home?

Yes, I would like to live here permanently.

7) What do you miss from Czech Republic the most and what don't you miss at all?

I miss travelling in the train (it is not expensive), the czech culture and countryside. I do not miss the Czech attitude to tell you what you should do in your life. The Canadian people respect a lot your freedom and they do not tell you what you should do or not (for exemple : to get marry, to be single, to work harder...). The Canadian people are more polite than the Czechs. Somethimes I find the Czechs too rough to each other (rude).

Appendix II.

Name: Vera Kvarcakova

Age: 30

Occupation: ballet dancer

Place of stay in Canada: Montreal

1) What have led you move to Canada and why have you chosen Canada as a destination of your stay?

I moved to Canada mostly because of the job opportunity (that offers me much better conditions to grow as an artist) but also from curiosity to explore a different country, culture etc.

2) How long have you already been in Canada? And are you satisfied there?

I live in Canada five years (9 years out of Czech Republic) and I am very satisfied, but I am missing Europe.

3) During your first year in Canada, was it hard to find a job, new friends ?

During first year was hard, even though I had my job immediately, create friendship takes time, as well as getting used to different culture

4) What are the attitudes of Canadian people toward you as a Czech? Have you experienced any troubles? (if so, what was it) And do you think there are any stereotypes against Czechs in Canada?

In my experience Canada is one of the most respectful countries toward different nations, ethnics etc. Canadians are proud that multiculturalism and openness is one of their strongest value. I didn't experience any trouble caused by being Czech. But in my opinion, feeling equal and respected is very much linked to the ability to communicate. The language barrier can cause misunderstanding, feeling loneliness and lack of confidence.

5) Have you got in touch with Czech culture in Canada? (Czech organization, festival, restaurant)

I have few Czech friends here, that I met thanks to the Czech organization in Montreal. But during 5 years I only experience one Czech cultural event (St. Nicholas Day)

6) Do you plan to live in Canada permanently or just for a certain time and then come back home?

Previously I planned to spend about two years in Canada, now it is been 5 years I became permanent resident and soon I could apply for citizenship, but I am planning to move back to Europe (not to Czech Republic though) soon.

7) What do you miss from Czech Republic the most and what don't you miss at all?

I miss the most my family and friends. I dont miss at all rude mentality of most of Czech people, including their need of judging the others, negtivity and luck of recspect.

Appendix III.

Name: Lukáš Michetschlager

Age: 28

Occupation: proces engineer

Place of stay in New Zealand: mostly Central Otago (cromwell, queenstown, wanaka)

1) What have led you move to New Zealand and why have you chosen New Zealand as a destination of your stay?

I have chosen new zealand because of the beautiful nature and english language. It's/was exotic place for me and so far a way from my hometown.

2) How long have you lived in New Zealand? Were you satisfied there?

I lived 15 months in New Zealand and I was totally satisfied. I would recommended this country to everybody.

3) During your first year in New Zealand, was it hard to find a job, new friends?

It was really easy to find a new job. We have got our first job in one week – manual job not the skill job (not our field like in the czech republic)

4) What are the attitudes of New Zealands people toward you as a Czech? Have you experienced any troubles? (if so, what was it) And do you think there are any stereotypes against Czechs in New Zealand?

All the Kiwi's are friendly and helpfull people in every single situation. Its based on my personal experience.

5) Have you got in touch with Czech culture in New Zealand? (Czech organization, festival, restaurant)

I got in touch with a lot of czech people during my stay in new zealand but never experienced any czech restaurant. I tried a czech beer in local restaurant in Puhoi (North Island).

6) Did you plan to live in New Zealand permanently or just for a certain time and then come back home?

Just for a certain time (15 months – working holiday visa for one year plus 3 extension). I have never planned to live in New Zealand for my life.

7) What did you miss from Czech Republic the most and what didn't you miss at all?

all the friends and my family and beer of course :-D

Appendix IV.

Name: Šárka Michetschlagerová

Age: 28

Occupation: scientist

Place of stay in New Zealand: mostly Central Otago (Cromwell, Queenstown, Wanaka)

1) What have led you move to New Zealand and why have you chosen New Zealand as a destination of your stay?

New Zealand belongs among several countries where we can apply for Work and Holiday visa. The possibility of working and travelling there led me to move to New Zealand.

2) How long have you lived in New Zealand? Were you satisfied there?

I have lived there for 15 months in total and I was more than satisfied.

3) During your first year in New Zealand, was it hard to find a job, new friends?

It was not hard to find a job or friends; it was quite easy.

4) What are the attitudes of New Zealanders people toward you as a Czech? Have you experienced any troubles? (if so, what was it) And do you think there are any stereotypes against Czechs in New Zealand?

The attitude of Kiwi people to Czechs is very positive. In general, Czech people have high reputation as good workers. I did not experience any troubles, always easy going and nice people which appreciate us.

5) Have you got in touch with Czech culture in New Zealand? (Czech organization, festival, restaurant)

I have visited one restaurant near Auckland where they serve Pilsner and also, I have met many Czech people as "we" are everywhere throughout entire New Zealand.

6) Did you plan to live in New Zealand permanently or just for a certain time and then come back home?

I have never plan to live in New Zealand permanently, but I would imagine living there.

7) What did you miss from Czech Republic the most and what didn't you miss at all?

I missed Czech bakery products.