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Differences between Cultures Viewed by Czechs Living in Britain

Prohlašuji, že jsem závěrečnou práci vypracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedené prameny a literaturu.

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vlastnoruční podpis

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Abstract

This bachelor's thesis focuses on differences between Czech and British culture viewed by Czechs living in Great Britain. It explains the basic terminology from the field of intercultural communication and barriers in such communication and presents the most fundamental differences between Czech and British culture. The practical part inquires into a personal experience of Czechs living in Britain with barriers in communication with Brits and their view of differences between Czech and British character and way of communication, leisure activities, and food and drinks.

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Introduction

All people and cultures around the world are different. These differences affect the way people behave and most importantly the way people communicate. To be able to communicate effectively with the members of different cultures, one needs to have some basic knowledge about this culture.

As a future English teacher, I am going to introduce the students to the topic of intercultural communication. Therefore, it is essential to know how the communication between different cultures works. The students should be aware of the particular differences between cultures (here it is Czech and British culture) to be able to communicate effectively.

This bachelor thesis focuses on the topic of communication and culture and presents the way in which culture affects communication. It explains which barriers can have an impact on intercultural communication – these are namely prejudice, stereotypes, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, and discrimination. Czech and British character and way of communication, typical leisure activities, and food and drinks are displayed together with differences between them.

In the practical part four research questions are asked and a questionnaire is used to inquire about experience Czechs living in Britain have got with intercultural communication. The focus is mainly on their experience with barriers in intercultural communication with Brits, their views of differences between Czech and British character and way of communication, leisure activities, and food and drinks depending on their age, length of the stay in the country, and occupation. The results of the survey are summarized at the end of the practical part together with the answers for the research questions.

Theoretical Part

1 Communication

It is difficult to specify only one meaning of the word communication as there are tens of definitions. Every culture, even each person understands the word in a way that is germane to their field of interest. For instance, neurologists are interested in what is happening to the brain and nervous system during the act of communication, whereas linguists explore the use of a language. By contrast, scientists from the electronic branch consider communication to be the transfer of information between different locations, which is rather close to the interpretation used in this bachelor thesis when talking about communication between people (Shuang et al., 2011, p. 33).

Either way, Joseph DeVito (2008, p. 28) considers communication skills to belong among the most important ones. According to the author, they have got an enormous impact on human life.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines communication as “the activity or process of expressing ideas and feelings or of giving people information” (Oxford University Press). In other words, communication is the act of sharing information between two or more people. To be able to share this information we need a *source*, which is “someone who needs and wants to exchange information with others” (Shuang et al., 2011, p. 35), and the *receiver*, defined as a person for which the message is meant (Shuang et al., 2011, p. 35). People do not only communicate by using a language, but also through their actions, facial expressions, gestures, etc. Basically, communication can be verbal and non-verbal (Nakonečný, 2007, p. 55).

2 Culture

Similarly to the definition of communication, the term *culture* bears several meanings according to the field of interest. Culture may be understood as the arts, everyday activities, a nation, the way we see the world, etc. (Farolan, 2003, p. 5).

Furthermore, Petrucijová (2005, p. 7-9) considers historical conceptions of the term. By origin, it used to be construed as intellectual activities, education, or even cultivation of the soil. Anthropologists who study human societies consider culture to be a result of human activity, sociological regulations, values, or ideologies. It is a feature of each human society.

3 Intercultural Communication

“The world is full of confrontations between people, groups, and nations who think, feel, and act differently” (Hofstede and Hofstede, 2005, p. 3).

A social psychologist Geert Hofstede and his son based their studies on the thought that all people and cultures around the world are different. Nevertheless, they still have to deal with the same problems every day. To cope with common threats such as natural disasters, economic problems, or for example currently very topical diseases, all nations in the world must cooperate. The scientists claim that the reason why many solutions do not work is that people tend to concentrate only on the problem itself and “differences in thinking among the partners have been ignored” (Hofstede and Hofstede, 2005, p. 4). Very similar opinion advocates also Joseph DeVito (2008, p. 54) who believes that our culture has got a radical impact on the communication act.

Various authors introduce slightly different definitions of the term *intercultural communication*. Nový and Schroll-Machl (2005, p. 52) say it is communication affected by an encounter of cultures, Průcha (2010, p. 16) describes it as an interaction between people who speak different languages and belong to diverse ethnic groups.

Průcha (2010, p. 13) then identifies three possible meanings of intercultural communication: a process, a scientific theory and research, and educational activities. This bachelor thesis is going to deal only with the first meaning of the term, therefore with the intercultural communication as a process of interaction between people who are part of various cultures, nationalities, races, or religious communities (Průcha, 2010, p. 16).

3.1 Cultural Factors in Communication

According to the Migration Data Portal, there were about 271 million international migrants in 2019 (IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, 2019). Migration is one of the reasons why people from different cultural backgrounds need to live next to each other and therefore communicate (Janebová, 2010, p. 3).

Each participant of a communication act is a member of a particular culture which affects their values, way of thinking, and mainly behavior (Janebová, 2010, p. 8). The same opinion holds a

Czech psychologist Jiří Čeněk et al. (2013, p. 126-127) who claim that there is a number of research proving the key influence of one's membership of an ethnic group, race, or nationality on the way of communication. Speaking a language is not the only way to achieve success during international communication. In fact, it is the opposite. There are situations when two people speak two languages, and they need to use the third one to be able to communicate with each other. Consequently, when a person wants to interpret a piece of information based on their cultural conception into another language, there is a possibility it will get lost in translation (Nový and Schroll-Machl, 2005, p. 54).

Another perspective (very similar to the previous ones) brings Hofstede and his son (2007, p. 14), who compare the human mind to a software. This software is programmed on basis of a social environment from which a person comes and in which they remain.

To be able to efficiently communicate with a member of another culture, we should realize that the difference between us is sometimes enormous. Every culture in the world has got its own particularities, customs, and beliefs, which, as we have already mentioned, affect the process of communication (Průcha, 2010, p. 31). We need to comprehend our culture and dissimilarity of other cultures, and to respect them as well (Čeněk, et al., 2013, p. 126-127).

In the middle of the last century, specialists started to deal with the research of intercultural communication and factors that may affect it in some way. They have initiated the formation of a new scientific discipline known as a typology of national cultures. One of the leading representatives of this field was Geert Hofstede who was mentioned in this thesis earlier as well (Průcha, 2010, p. 33).

4 Barriers in Intercultural Communication

Culture is not only an important factor when it comes to a person's behaviour. It affects the way people look at each other, the so-called perception. Sherfu (2005, p. 60) says that "our cultural beliefs and values have programmed us to attend to cues that are deemed valuable in our culture". There is a possibility that without any cross-cultural awareness the intercultural communication will be affected by "hasty assumptions, generalizations and judgements" (Sherfu. 2005, p. 25), or other barriers. This bachelor thesis is going to introduce some of them:

4.1 Prejudice

American psychologist Gordon W. Allport, who studied mainly personality psychology, dedicated a whole book to the topic of *prejudice*. In this work, the word prejudice is defined as “a negative and hostile attitude towards a person that is a member of a particular group, only because they are a member of this group, and they are therefore expected to have got undesirable qualities assigned to this group” (Allport, 2004, p. 39).

However, the author suggests, this is only one of the definitions which can be used talking about prejudice. It is possible to have got a negative, but a positive attitude towards someone as well. Accordingly, another explanation of the term could be “positive or negative attitude toward a person that is a member of a particular group” (Allport, 2004, p. 38). Hnilica (2010, p. 18) adds to negative and positive also ambivalent attitudes.

Together with a definition of the term, Allport deals with the way it has changed over the centuries. While during the ancient history the prejudice was understood as a judgement based on a previous experience, later it has developed into a hasty judgement. A judgement that is not based on an experience (Allport, 2004, p. 38).

The same interpretation advocates Mohammed Sherfu (2005, p. 66), who explains the term as a judgement formed without any experience. Doctor Sherfu supports an idea that being prejudiced can be both beneficial and faulty. In some situations, people have not got enough time to develop their own opinion about someone and being prejudiced and judgemental can be more productive. Allport (2004, p. 40) adds that this prejudgement may have got its origin in one's experience with another member of a particular ethnic group, who made a bad impression. After this experience, they end up thinking that each person who is a member of that given ethnic group has got the same attributes. This fault is called *social categorization* and is, according to Nelson (2009, p. 3) an outcome of craving for simplicity.

Despite the fact, that the definition of the term prejudice is occasionally being explained in different ways by sociologists, philosophers, and other scientists, they all come to an agreement when it comes to the cause of being judgemental. It is a diversity (Kosek, 2011, p. 23). People tend to judge others because they differ in race, sex, nationality, religion, age, etc. (Sherfu, 2005, p. 66).

4.2 Stereotypes

In a research created by ethnologists Lucie Uhlíková and Marta Toncrová in 2001 a question about a typical Czech person was asked. It emerged that most of the answers were very similar. Uhlíková calls this “identical image of a particular collective” *stereotypes* (Uhlíková, 2001, p. 49).

Hnilica (2010, p. 13) explains it on an example about the Mongols: When we know a few high Mongolians, we, therefore, assume that all Mongolians are high. Hnilica also claims people create from 5 to 15 attributes about one social group, not all of them have to be negative (height is a neutral attribute). As we can see from the previous example, stereotypes are based on a previous experience (Jirásková, 2006, p. 111).

Zbyněk Vybíral is another scientist dealing with stereotypes in a book called *Psychology of Communication* (2009). Just as doctor Sherfu with prejudice, Vybíral asserts that stereotypes are simplified beliefs created for the purpose of saving time. They help to simplify and promptly perceive the outside world. The author then divides stereotypes into *heterostereotypes* – stereotypes about a different group, and *autostereotypes* – stereotypes about our own group (Vybíral, 2009, p. 78-79). “A picture about oneself – autostereotype, is created by comparing oneself with other members of the same ethnic group,” agrees Uhlíková (2001, p. 49).

4.2.1 Ethnophaulisms

Ethnophaulisms are special terms used by one ethnic group to name another one (commonly a national minority). They are often humorous or derogatory (usually negative) (Průcha, 2010, p.65).

Here are some examples of ethnophaulisms: *Taffy* (a Welshman), *Jock* (a Scotsman), *colored* (an African - American), *kaffir* (an African), *coolie* (an Indian), etc. (Hughes, 2006, p. 148).

4.3 Ethnocentrism

Another huge part in forming barriers in intercultural communication can be played by *ethnocentrism*. DeVito (2008, p. 59) describes it as an inclination to believe that one’s ethnic group is the best one. Similarly, Sherfu (2005, p. 62) asserts that values which are own to a person’s ethnic group influence the judgements one makes about other groups.

Admitting it is completely normal to have got biased opinions, Tesař (2007, p. 66-68) introduces two terms: an *in-group* (as a group one belongs to, which does not have to be an ethnic group only) and an *out-group* (a group one does not belong to). The author points out that people tend to prefer an in-group even in case there is no cogent reason to do so. We create images of in-groups and out-groups and we tend to match positive attributes to in-groups and negative to out-groups.

Ethnocentrism is rooted in the evolution of the human species and helps us to distinguish between “us” and “the others”. Thus, it is extremely easy to adopt ethnocentrism, but it is complicated to break the habit of acting this way (Tesař, 2007, p. 69).

4.4 Xenophobia

Xenophobia may be defined as a negative attitude aimed towards another person or group that is in a sort of way different from us or the group we belong to. The basis of this attitude is in the fear of the unknown, and distrust. However, xenophobia does not concern the relationship between ethnic groups only. It also includes hateful behaviour between two groups of teenagers, neighbouring towns, etc. (Tesař, 2007, p. 69-70).

4.5 Discrimination

Bobek and collective (2007, p. 38) perceive *discrimination* as an unequal treatment of someone. Hnilica (2010, p. 18) adds that this unequal treatment may be aimed towards individuals or whole groups of people, who are members of some social category.

In contrast to prejudice, which manifests itself in a negative attitude, discriminatory behaviour includes not only verbal but nonverbal actions as well. It may be described as an “overt actions to exclude, avoid, or distance” (Sherfu, 2005, p. 69).

However, discrimination does not always have to be negative. There are also situations when positive discrimination occurs (preferential treatment) (Hnilica, 2010, p. 19). Sherfu (2005, p. 70) then brings a different division of discrimination: isolate discrimination (one person towards a member of an out-group), small-group discrimination (group of individuals towards a few members of an out-group), direct institutional discrimination (by a community protected by the laws), and indirect institutional discrimination (community activities with a negative, although not intentional, consequences).

5 Difference between Czech and British Character and Way of Communication

Czech Character and Way of Communication

The xenophobe's guide to the Czechs characterizes people belonging to this nation as constantly being annoyed by something. The authors say that it is the first thing to notice when meeting a Czech person. Czechs always seem to deal with some difficulties. "While people from other nations need a proper and serious reason for being grumpy, Czechs do not need any." (Berka et al., 2009, p. 25) This also means that Czechs always complain about something and they seem to enjoy it (Berka et al., 2009, p. 25).

One of the reasons for this bad attitude could be, as Englund suggests in *The Czechs in a Nutshell*, another typical Czech feature: scepticism, described as a "cautious behaviour combined with doubt about the truth of noble ideals" (Englund, 2009, p. 239) The author claims that it takes roots in the Czech history (especially during communism when people lost control over their own lives) (Englund, 2009, p. 239).

By contrast, Berka et al. (2009, p. 44) declare that what Czechs take pride in the most is their sense of humour. The truth is they really like telling anecdotes. Whether they are good or bad is another question. "In the Czech offices and workshops, it is common for a boss to come among the employees and say something funny" (Berka et al., 2009, p. 44).

Czechs do not show their emotions in public very much. In fact, if they did, other people would probably think something unpleasant about them. When two friends meet, they usually do not hug (they give a hug to someone in some special incidents only). A simple greeting is typical, sometimes accompanied by a slap on the back. Shaking hands is reserved for formal occasions (Berka et al., 2009, p. 62).

On top of that, the way in which Czechs communicate could be ambiguous. People say things they do not really mean, they only want to show some sort of kindness, generosity, or modesty. A typical example is asking you not to take your shoes off when you come for a visitor refusal of refreshments or gifts. None of these is meant to be taken literally (Englund, 2009, p. 64).

British Character and Way of Communication

“An Englishman’s home is his castle” is a proverb which indicates British manner. At first sight, one can assume that Brits are reserved, and their social life happens at their home. This is partially truth for those living in the countryside, as it takes them longer to open up to someone (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 65).

This idea probably comes from the fact that Brits are very restrained in public, do not show their emotions, hug, or kiss. “They are completely reserved when it comes to a physical contact.” (Miall, 1994, p. 26). On the other hand, they are always prepared to help a stranger. Manners are at the top of their priority list. The most important words are “thank you”, “please” and “sorry” (New College Group, 2019).

When it comes to British humour, “the British know how to laugh at themselves and every one up to the Prime Minister or the Queen must expect to be the object of humour.” (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 64). Brits are very sarcastic and able to make fun even in dark moments, therefore their humour can seem to be a little bit offensive (New College Group, 2019).

The conversation usually starts with a casual greeting, people only use a handshake when it comes to a more formal meeting. Brits often switch to using the first names only, even at work (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 65-66). Miall (1994, p. 25) agrees that people use their first names even when they have not met each other before. The first topic of the conversation is always the weather. However, as Kate Fox (2004, p. 11) points out, it functions more like a conversation starter or a greeting than a meteorological talk.

Difference between Czech and British Character and Way of Communication

The general character and attitude towards life are very different in these cultures. While Czechs usually tend to be irritable, Brits do not take their life that seriously and know how to laugh at themselves. Nevertheless, humour is important both for Czech and British people. The difference is that Czechs enjoy telling cheerful jokes, but Brits like dark humour and find it even in bad situations.

Considering emotions, the two cultures are very similar. Neither Czechs nor Brits show them in public very often, therefore they seem to be quite reserved. Simple greetings are used, and handshakes are common during formal events only.

6 Difference between Czech and British Leisure Activities

Czech Leisure Activities

According to Englund (2009, p. 119), Czechs have got an inclination to prolong the time when they are not working as much as they can. Although he admits it is rather a Western world's matter than only Czech, he also declares that this particular nation takes it to a higher level. "After noon on Friday, most Czech public offices tend to work with even bigger delays and troubles than earlier in the week." (Englund, 2009, p. 119).

On the basis of a survey carried out by an Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in 2015, Czechs spend most of their free time watching TV (2 hours/day). Another favourite leisure activity is relaxing (1 hr), socializing (1 hr), reading, or spending time on the internet (both half an hour) (Sociologický ústav AV ČR, 2016).

Here is a list of examples of other typical leisure activities that Czechs enjoy doing:

Going to the Pub

According to the Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Crafts, there were 40 000 pubs and restaurants in the Czech Republic in June 2018. That means one of them per 265 inhabitants, which is the most in comparison with countries like Austria, Germany, Poland, and Great Britain (Kratochvílová, 2018).

Going to the pub is so popular in the Czech Republic that people sometimes do that straight after work without stopping by at home. There are two reasons why Czechs love pubs so much. The first one is of course beer, which will be dealt with later in this thesis. The second one is that the pub can, at least for a little while, solve all the problems. The Czech tendency to complain about something all the time manifests itself best in the pub (Berka et al., 2009, p. 76-77). "To undergo the classic *hospoda* therapy, there are only three things you need: beer (the larger quantity, the better result), a problem that really bothers you, and the company of a friend or acquaintance (if you don't have any, you'll find some in the *hospoda*)." (Englund, 2009, p. 145).

Cottages

Staying in a cottage over the weekend is called “having a first and a second home” by doctor Duffková (2002) in her paper dealing with this phenomenon. According to the author, staying in a cottage should bring benefits that the “first home” is not able to. It started in the twenties of the previous century when people from the higher social class wanted to spend their weekends or vacation somewhere in the countryside. The doctor says it has also something to do with the hikers’ movement and hikers’ camps built around Prague at the same time. A sociologist Bohuslav Blažek (2002) mentions another possible reason for a Czech fondness for staying in a cottage and that is the fact that people found it more acceptable to enjoy peace in the countryside than engage in any political actions during the communist regime.

Czechs spend their weekends or vacations in the cottage where they enjoy leisure activities like gardening, making improvements around the cottage, or just relaxing (Duffková, 2002, p. 29-31).

There is one activity with a long history in the Czech Republic that not only goes together with staying in a cottage but is very common for most of the Czech inhabitants, even though some other countries find it slightly strange. Mushroom gathering. People like to get up early, go to the forest and they do not go home until they have got their wooden baskets full. There are many traditional dishes which can be made from mushrooms – schnitzel, soup, pickled mushrooms, mixed mushrooms with eggs, mushrooms and groats, etc. (Englund, 2009, p. 199). There are even mycology journals, Mushroom Advice Center (Prague, est. 1909), clubs dedicated to mushroom gathering and so on (Funda, 2019, p. 7).

Handymen

Another leisure activity Czechs enjoy is inseparably connected to the communist regime, just like the scepticism mentioned earlier. What started as a necessity in those times, has evolved into a hobby of numerous Czech men (these days also women). “The communist era was infamous for its large-scale absence of both decent services and modern consumer goods. When something broke down (which happened all the time), the simplest – and often only – way of fixing it, was to do it yourself.” (Englund, 2009, p. 130).

Today, the so-called “DIY” changes from something that is needed into something that is modern to do. Since we have so many shops nowadays, it is no problem to buy a new thing when it gets broken and there is no need to fix it. Nevertheless, there are people who actually

revel in “doing it themselves”. Either they really enjoy it, or they do not want to encourage the consumer society (Matušková, 2019).

Sports

The xenophobe’s guide to the Czechs mentions, using exaggeration, that Czechs are the best hockey players, football players, athletes and tennis players in the world (but only in a passive way). The fact is, there are a lot of great names when it comes to the sport and Czechs can be really proud of them. A favourite activity is watching matches on TV or gathering in front of some big screen with thousands of other fans so they can all enjoy it together (Berka et al., 2009, p. 79-80).

When it comes to actually doing sports, professor Stříteský (2015) in a study concerning about the attitude of Czechs towards sports found out only about 15 % of the population does some physical activity once or twice a week and 40 % does not do any sport at all. On one hand, ice hockey and football are the most watched sports on TV, on the other hand, sports that people enjoy doing the most in the Czech Republic are cycling (21.8 %), swimming (20.4 %), or hiking (16.4 %).

British Leisure Activities

The results of an interview held in 2018 show that the most frequent leisure activity in Britain is watching TV (91.5%), closely followed by socializing (90.1%). Brits also enjoy listening to music, eating out, or browsing the internet (Luty, 2020).

Here are some other typical free time activities:

DIY

DIY stands for Do-It-Yourself and it is a favourite leisure activity for people owning houses or gardens. Not only Brits enjoy “doing things themselves”, but they also like visiting DIY centres, or watching numerous TV programmes about DIY (Collins, 2008, p. 31).

In a book *Watching the English* (2004, p. 43-44) Kate Fox confesses that Brits are obsessed with house and garden improvements. The main reason for DIYing is expressing one’s personality. Among other motives belong a territorial marking or an economic necessity. There

is a ritual of rebuilding at least some part of the house when a person moves in, claims the author.

Animals

“An Englishman’s home may be his castle, but his dog is the real king” (Fox, 2004, p. 88).

Various sources confirm that Britain is a nation of pet lovers. In fact, the first charity for animals was established there in 1824 and every other home in Britain owns a pet now, according to Professor Hamlett (2019), a historian dealing with a family and home life in Britain. Hamlett claims that pets became a part of family life in the 18th century. Pets usually get a lot of attention and people like to spoil them. Brits often have got a better relationship with the pets than with other people (Fox, 2004, p. 88).

The most common pet is a cat, followed by a dog. There are many programmes about animals or wildlife on TV as well, which Brits enjoy watching. Thousands of visitors per year also attend numerous Pet shows and exhibitions hold all around Britain (Collins, 2008, p. 32-33).

Sports

Britain can be proud of many sports that have their origin on these islands like football, rugby, badminton, cricket, table tennis, boxing, and a lot more. Sport is not only a hobby for many people, but also a passion, and the rivalry between the supporters can sometimes be stronger than their friendship. The typical example could be football, the most frequently watched, the second most frequently played sport by Brits. Being a fan of a football team is something people inherit or choose according to their place of birth (Mountney and Anténe, 2018, p. 58-59).

Other favourite sports are for example cricket (the second most favourite to watch), golf, or horse riding. However, Brits also enjoy walks in the countryside or cycling (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 30).

Difference Between Czech and British Leisure Activities

Before comparing Czech and British leisure activities it must be said that unlike Czechs, who tend to shorten their working time as much as they can, many Brits work more than 48 hours a week (the longest in Europe) (Collins, 2008, p. 18).

Both Czechs and Brits spend most of their free time in front of a TV. Socializing and browsing the internet are other mutual leisure activities. Both cultures enjoy trips to DIY or garden centres and improving their homes on their own. It is the same regarding sports. They love watching sport on TV. The previously mentioned socializing in large measure takes place in pubs. The difference is that in the Czech Republic it is not an exception that the regular pub-goers determine the closing time, in Britain pubs usually close at 11 p.m. (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 57).

7 Difference between Czech and British Food and Drinks

Czech Food and Drinks

Czechs and Food

In the past, people in the Czech Republic were dependent on the food they could grow themselves (also during the communist era when the supply was falling behind). This fact affects the Czech traditional cuisine even today. Among these ingredients belonged mainly potatoes, root vegetables, from meat it was pork, also poultry, rabbit, or freshwater fish, mostly carp (Faktor and Žantovská, 2007, p. 7). In general, Czechs eat a lot of meat (pork and poultry), usually with potatoes. However, just like in other countries, the food is starting to be more diverse these days. Czechs also enjoy eating in fast food restaurants offering hamburgers and chips (Stupka and Eliášek, 2014, p. 6-7).

Mealtimes

Most of the Czechs usually eat three times a day, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The biggest meal of the day is lunch, served at midday. It mostly includes soup and a main course, sometimes followed by some sort of dessert. On the contrary, dinner consists of only one course, and it is usually cold (Stupka and Eliášek, 2014, p. 7).

Even though breakfast is not the main meal of the day in the Czech Republic, people tend to call it the most important one. A research showed that 34 % of Czechs eat bakery products (bread, roll) with butter, 24 % add cheese or ham, and 24 % choose sweet breakfast. Some people like cereals and yoghurt, at the weekend pancakes are favourite as well (Retailnews).

Traditional Czech Food

As it was mentioned earlier, traditional Czech cuisine takes advantage of the ingredients people can grow themselves. Nevertheless, this does not mean it is featureless.

The tradition of hog-killing always used to be a huge event gathering family and friends and is still current in many villages. Favourite meals are boiled pork, headcheese (boiled meat and offal), black pudding (intestines stuffed with meat, livers, and blood) or blood soup (boiled meat, groats, and pig blood) (Stupka and Eliášek, p. 8-11). There are even whole cookery books oriented to hog-killing meals, for example, *Zabijačková kuchařka* written by Miluše Horáčková (2005) with 344 recipes.

Another popular pork meal is goulash or schnitzel with potato salad. There are many types of potato salad, yet it usually includes root vegetables, pickles, eggs, and mayonnaise (Stupka and Eliášek, p. 48).

The most typical Czech food is beef sirloin with cream gravy and bread dumplings (“svíčková”). It is usually served at weddings or other special occasions (Stupka and Eliášek, p. 32).

The favourite Czech ingredient are potatoes which can be prepared in many ways. As a side dish, or main dish with salt, butter, curd cheese, as a potato pancake, goulash, or dumplings, and many more (Faktor, 2007, p. 8).

Christmas Dinner

The most important day of Czech Christmas is Christmas Eve (December 24). People tend to leave out meat dishes all day but enjoy baking and eating sweetbread instead (“vánočka”). The traditional dinner starts with a fish soup, which is followed by a fried carp and a potato salad. However, the preparations for Christmas usually start many days earlier when Czechs bake gingerbread and other Christmas sweets (Stupka and Eliášek, p. 70-74).

Beer

The Czech Republic belongs among the leading beer-drinking nations in the world. On an average, one Czech drinks about 160 litres of beer per year. There are several reasons why Czech beer is so popular. Tradition, very famous hop plant variety, or excellent sources of natural water (McFarland, 2011, p. 134).

British Food and Drinks

Brits and Food

Various publications agree on one thing – British cuisine has a very bad reputation around the world. They tend to overcook the vegetables and a homecooked meal is usually much better than the one served in a restaurant (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 51). There are several reasons for this. Food rations and the use of local sources during wars, the popularity of cookbooks and cookery TV shows, are among them (Mountney and Anténe, 2018, p. 56-57).

In general, Brits choose “white meat” (chicken, fish) rather than “red”, they are also learning to eat healthier these days. “In the past ten years, sales of fruit and vegetables have increased by more than 50 %.” (Collins, 2008, p. 26). However, many families in Britain still want their food to be ready quickly. Therefore, they prefer fast food restaurants, “take-away”, or ready-to-cook meal offered in supermarkets. As for eating out, foreign cuisine is very popular, especially Chinese, or Indian (Collins, 2008, p. 27).

Mealtimes

Brits start their day with breakfast, as usual. Nevertheless, they do not normally eat the traditional full English breakfast (this is served in hotels). Kate Fox (2004, p. 116) says that Brits eat less traditional British breakfasts than tourists. Cereals, toast with jam or Marmite, and tea or coffee are more common. A quick snack is eaten at midday – a sandwich, salad, or soup. This is called lunch, luncheon, or dinner, depending on the location, class, etc. (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 52-53).

The main meal of the day is eaten in the evening. It is the biggest meal and consists of meat or fish and dessert afterwards (sometimes called pudding). The names of this dish differ just like with the meal served at midday. It can be dinner, but some call it high tea or tea as well (especially in Scotland and the north of England) (Collins, 2008, p. 30).

A tea or teatime does not have to refer to the evening meal, it can also represent a small snack served with tea during the afternoon (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 53).

Traditional British Food

When it comes to breakfast, there is the worldwide famous full English consisting of sausage, fried egg, tomatoes, bacon, mushrooms, and toast. Another traditional meal would be a sandwich – two slices of toast with some filling (the most typical is bacon, lettuce, tomato), or jacket potato (a baked potato with a filling) (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 53-55).

The main meal of the day is served in the evening and there are many traditional dishes. Sunday roast dinner consists of roasted meat (usually beef) and potatoes, together with vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and gravy. Fish and chips from chippies (fish and chip shops), Scottish haggis involving minced sheep offal in a sheep's stomach with potatoes and turnips, or Asian curry, are also very popular (Mountney and Anténe, 2018, p. 57).

Another British favourite is a leg or rib of a lamb or various pies filled with meat or vegetables – cottage pie (minced beef), shepherd's pie (minced lamb), fish pie. Popular sweet dishes are scones (biscuit with a cream), fruit crumble (fruit with pastry), or custard (vanilla sauce) (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 54-55).

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner is eaten on a Christmas Day (December 25) and it consists of a roasted turkey or a goose with a filling. It is served with potatoes, vegetables and followed by a traditional mince pie – dried fruit in a pastry (Whitton and Whitton, 2009, p. 55).

Tea

Britain is very popular for drinking tea. There are about 100 million cups of tea consumed in the UK every day. A typical British cup of tea is served with milk in it, originally because people thought it would be healthier this way (Collins, 2008, p. 30). British people believe a cup of tea can help with any mental or physical difficulties. Therefore, it is never unsuitable to “put the kettle on” (Fox, 2004, p. 117).

Difference between Czech and British Food and Drinks

The Czech and British eating habits are generally very different. Both cultures use poultry when they are cooking, however, Czechs also like pork a lot, while Brits are more fish lovers. The

main meal of the day is served at midday in the Czech Republic, but in the evening in Britain. Czech traditional food is less healthy than British, who use more vegetables. Also, the preparation of the food is diverse – Czechs usually use boiling, British cuisine is famous for its roasted meals. The most favourite British drink would be tea, while Czechs are famous for their beer.

Considering Christmas, the main difference here is that Czech people enjoy baking sweets many days before the actual Christmas Eve.

Practical Part

8 Methodology

The aim of the practical part of this thesis is to find out what experience with intercultural communication Czechs living in Britain have. The focus is especially on the barriers in intercultural communication mentioned in the theoretical part, and the difference between Czech and British character and way of communication, leisure activities, and food and drinks viewed by Czechs living in Britain.

Czechs who are members of Facebook groups gathering Czechs living in Britain were asked to fill in a questionnaire containing 13 questions related to the problematics of cultural factors affecting communication, their own experience with the barriers in intercultural communication, and different aspects of cultural customs as well. The questionnaire was created on the website www.surveymonkey.com.

8.1 Research Questions

RQ 1: How do Czechs of different occupations, age, and length of the stay in the country, living in Britain perceive the barriers in communication with Brits?

RQ 2: What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their length of stay in the country?

RQ 3: What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their age?

RQ 4: What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their occupation?

8.2 Respondents

The questionnaire was shared on 5 different Facebook groups gathering Czechs who live in Britain. This way was chosen because there is a considerable number of people of various ages, genders, and professions in these groups and therefore the results are expected to be relevant and objective.

Between the 26th of February, 2021, and the 10th of March, 2021 (13 days) 308 people accessed the questionnaire. However, only 122 decided to complete it. Out of these, 89.3 % were women (100) and 10.7 % (12) were men. Most of the respondents were between 31 and 40 years old (37.5 %). The complete age distribution is shown in Table 1.

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
18-25	12	10.7 %
26-30	33	29.5 %
31-40	42	37.5 %
41-50	22	19.6 %
51-60	3	2.7 %
60 and more	0	0 %

Table 1: Age of respondents

The respondents were also asked about the length of their stay in Britain. 22.3 % (25) of the respondents have been living in Britain for 1-3 years, 17.9 % (20) have been living there for 4-5 years, 26.8 % (30) for 6-10 years, and most of the respondents, that is 33 % (37), have been living there for more than 10 years.

The occupation of the respondents is displayed in Table 2. The answers were divided into 8 branches: administration, health care, IT, management, manual and technical, service, student, and other (science, education, maternity leave, etc.).

Branch	Number of respondents	Percentage
Administration	18	16.07 %
Health care	16	14.29 %

IT	8	7.14 %
Management	13	11.61 %
Manual and technical	10	8.93 %
Service	32	28.57 %
Student	8	7.14 %
Other	7	6.25 %

Table 2: Occupation of the respondents

9 Results of the Survey

Question 1: “In your opinion, during a conversation with a person from another country, is it important to know something about their culture?”

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	80	71.4 %
No	24	21.4 %
Other/Comments	8	7.1 %

Table 3: In your opinion, during a conversation with a person from another country, is it important to know something about their culture?

The majority of the respondents believe that having some knowledge about a culture of a person one holds a conversation with is important which confirms the findings of a Czech psychologist Jiří Čeněk et al. (2013, p.126-127) mentioned in the theoretical part of this thesis. 71.4 % (80) of respondents answered “Yes”, while 21.4 % (24) answered “No”. The rest of the Czechs

living in Britain who participated in the research think it is important at some point, but they usually agree it depends on the topic of the conversation.

Out of the 80 respondents who answered “Yes” to the question, the highest percentage is between 31-40 years old (31.3 %), have been living in the country for 6-10 years (30 %) and work in service (31.3 %). Out of 24 people who think it is not essential to know something about culture of a person they are talking to, the highest percentage are between 31-40 years old (45.8 %), have been living in Britain for 10 or more years (54.2 %) and work in administration or service (both 33.3 %).

Question 2: “Have you ever had any trouble understanding a British person because of the difference in cultures?”

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	50	44.6 %
No	59	52.7 %
Other/Comments	3	2.7 %

Table 4: Have you ever had any trouble understanding a British person because of the difference in cultures?

The second question inquired about a personal experience Czechs living in Britain have with communication difficulties resulting from the difference in cultures. As Průcha (2010, p. 31) claims, the culture affects the process of communication. However, the answers in this question were almost equal. Only nearly half of the respondents (44.6 %) have had some trouble understanding a British person because of the difference in cultures. Out of these, the highest percentage is 31-40 years old (36 %), have been living in the country for 4-5 years (40 %) and work in service (26 %) or administration (16 %).

52.7 % (59) of respondents answered “No” to the question, and 2.7 % (3) decided to leave a comment, for example that they have experienced some difficulties, but not essential ones. Out of 59 people who answered “No” to the question, the highest percentage is between 31-40 years

old (40.7 %), have been living in the country for more than 10 years (33.9 %) and work in service (25.4 %) or management (16.9 %).

The difference between the length of the stay of people answering “No” and people answering “Yes” to the question might show how the understanding gets better with every other year spent in the country.

Question 3: “Intercultural communication can be affected by barriers like prejudice, or stereotypes which manifest themselves in a negative attitude towards people from different cultures, hasty assumptions, etc. Have you got any experience with this kind of behaviour?”

“If yes, describe your experience, please.”

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	52	46.4 %
No	60	53.6 %

Table 5: Have you got any experience with these barriers in intercultural communication?

The third question explored the respondents’ encounter with the barriers in intercultural communication. According to Sherfu (2005, p. 25) it is essential to have got some cross-cultural awareness in order to avoid these barriers. Slightly more than a half of the Czechs living in Britain (53.6 %) have got an experience with communication affected by barriers such as prejudice, or stereotypes. The highest percentage of them is 31-40 years old (40.4 %), have been living in the country for more than 10 years (36.5 %) and work in service (23 %). Nevertheless, 46.4 % (52) of the respondents has never come into contact with this kind of behaviour. The highest percentage of them is 31-40 years old (35 %), have been living in Britain for 1-3 years or more than 10 years (both 30 %) and work in service (28.3 %).

People who answered “Yes” to the question were then asked to describe their experience. One of the most frequent responses (12) was that Brits are not sure where exactly the Czech Republic is situated, and on basis of the accent Czech immigrants have got, most of the Brits assume it is in Eastern Europe or call them Poles. These answers were most frequent within the

respondents who are 31-40 years old (5), have been living in the country for more than 10 years (4) and work in service (5). The research showed that people coming from Eastern Europe to Great Britain are considered being less educated, also expected to work for smaller wages. This was mentioned the most by people who are 31-40 years old (2) or 41-50 years old (2), have been living in Britain for more than 10 years (4) and work in health care (2) or service (2). This stereotyped view corresponds with the one of Uhlíková (2001, p.49) or Hnilica (2010, p.13) who assert that people tend to create images about different social groups. The images are based on a previous experience with the members of these groups (Jirásková, 2006, p. 111).

The prejudice often (6) concerns a level of development of the Czech Republic. Czechs are being regularly asked whether there is a TV, colour TV, or electricity in the country. The respondents who are between 31 and 40 years old (4), have been living in the country for 6-10 years (3) and work in service (3) have come across such questions the most.

Also, some of the respondents (3) believe that they did not get an interview or a job as a result of being foreigners which illustrates the problematics of discrimination, an unequal treatment as described by Bobek et al. (2007, p. 38). People who have got an experience with this treatment are 18-25 (1) or 26-30 (2) years old, live in the country for 1-3 (1) or more than 10 years (2) and work in service (2) or have got a manual job (1). However, the number of Czechs who have experienced discrimination is very low which shows it is not a big problem in Great Britain.

Question 4: “Did you have any prejudiced opinion about British people before you came to the country?”

“If yes, describe the opinion, please.”

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	30	26.8 %
No	82	73.2 %

Table 6: Did you have any prejudiced opinion about British people before you came to the country?

This question focused on the opinions Czechs held about Brits before they moved to Great Britain. The aim was to find out whether Czechs had any prejudiced opinions. It turned out that 26.8 % (30) think they had a prejudiced opinion, nevertheless 73.2 % (82) of the respondents did not have such an opinion.

Out of 30 respondents who claim they had some prejudiced opinion about Brits before they came to the country, the highest percentage is 31-40 years old (40 %), live in the country for 6-10 years (33.3 %) and work in service (30 %), on the contrary, no one who has got a manual job answered “Yes” to this question. The highest percentage of people who answered “No” to the question is 31-40 years old (37.8 %), have been living in Britain for 6-10 years (24.4 %) and work in service (25.6 %).

The reason for the fact that people working manually had no prejudiced opinion before they came to Britain could be that they came only for the job, therefore their only focus was on that and they did not consider any possible culture differences.

The respondents who answered “Yes” were then asked to share their opinion. The most frequent answers were that they thought Brits are polite (5) in every situation, that they have got no or bad sense of humour (3), they are friendly, open, and welcoming (4), but also cold and distant, sometimes arrogant (5). Among other responses were lazy, posh, racist, conservative, educated, or punctual.

“If yes, was the opinion right?”

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	18	34.0 %
No	26	49.1 %
Other/Comments	9	17.0 %

Table 7: If you had any prejudiced opinion about British people, was your opinion right?

As the Table 7 shows, the higher number of the respondents' opinions about Brits was only a hasty judgement as Allport (2004, p. 38) defines prejudice. Nearly half of the opinions Czechs had about Brits before they came to Great Britain was not right. "No" was answered by 49.1 % (26) of the respondents, 34.0 % of the respondents said their opinion was right. The highest percentage of them is 31-40 years old (38.9 %), have been living in the country for 1-3 years or more than 10 years (both 27.7 %) and work in IT (22.2 %).

The reason for the fact that the highest percentage of the respondents whose prejudiced opinion was right is working in IT could be that in their job they do not travel abroad that much. On that account, when they decide to work in a foreign country, they try to learn as much about the new culture as they can beforehand. Therefore, they find out many information which later turn out to be right.

The opinions that the respondents marked as false: polite (3), distant and cold (3), having no or bad sense of humour (3), posh (2), friendly, punctual.

The opinions that the respondents marked as right: open and friendly (2), welcoming, racist, cold, polite, arrogant, conservative.

Question 5: "Ethnophaulisms are special terms used by one ethnic group to name another one (in Czech we have got words like Rusák, Ťaman, and so on). Are there any terms like this that British people use to name Czechs?"

"If yes, write these terms."

Answer	Number of respondents	Percentage
Yes	24	21.4 %
No	88	78.6 %

Table 8: Are there any ethnophaulisms that British people use to name Czechs?

78.6 % (88) of the Czechs who filled out the questionnaire have not got any experience with special terms used to name Czech people. Less than a third of the respondents (21.4 %) have met with ethnophaulisms used by Brits to name Czechs. The highest percentage of them is 31-

40 years old (37.5 %), have been living in Britain for 6-10 years (45.8 %) and work in health care (29.2 %). On the contrary, no one working in management have ever met with such terms. The possible cause could be that people working in management have to deal with foreign clients, suppliers, plan business trips, etc. and therefore they need to have some awareness of other countries. On the other hand, medical staff members only focus on their job.

When it comes to the specific ethnophobias, three answers were repeated over and over: Eastern European (10), Polish/Poles (11), and Czechoslovaks (5). The respondents assume Brits do not know where exactly the Czech Republic lies, and therefore they tend to think Czechs are from Eastern Europe. Also, according to their accent they are inclined to confuse Czechs with Poles. Five of the respondents claim that Brits still believe Czech and Slovak Republics are joined together and form Czechoslovakia. On that account they call them Czechoslovaks.

Question 6: “In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British character? The difference between an attitude toward life in general, the way people act in public, etc.”

When it comes to the difference between Czech and British character, most repeated answer (19) was that Brits are much more polite than Czechs. According to the respondents, Brits have got better manners (for example when it comes to being in a queue), they are more politically correct and diplomatic (3). For instance, in shops even when the customer is rude to them, they remain nice. The respondents who hold this idea are usually 26-30 (8) or 31-40 (8) years old, have been living in the country for 1-3 years (6) and work in service (6).

There is an agreement among some (9) of the respondents that Brits do not judge other people, do not care what other people wear, what their appearance is. On the other hand, their politeness seems to be little pretended by some of the respondents (7) who feel that Brits are also two faced and not being honest, they do not show their emotions or say what they truly think (8). The most people who answered this way are 31-40 years old (9), have been living in Britain for 4-5 years (7) and work in service (8). Czechs, on the contrary, are viewed as more direct and honest, they are open and say what they think (8). However, the cause of these qualities may be that they are sometimes too rude, the responses show. The most respondents who wrote this are 31-40 years old (4), have been living in the country for 1-3 years (3) and work in health care (3) or service (3).

Another feature of British character is friendliness. Twenty-seven respondents claim Brits are friendly, nice, welcoming, and open. Six of them mention that British people like to make small talk, even with people who are complete strangers to them. They smile a lot, which Czechs do not do. The results reveal Czechs think about themselves as more reserved, usually pessimistic, irritated, and complaining about something a lot (9). The respondents claiming this are usually 26-30 years old (10) and work in service (9). The length of their stay in Britain has got no influence on this idea. Nevertheless, three people who participated in the research consider Czechs being more friendly and fun than Brits.

The questionnaire showed that Czech respondents also think that Brits are more open minded, enjoy life, and they are relaxed (12), which could mean they are lazy, and it takes them longer time to get things done though (3). Out of the twelve respondents, the most are 31-40 years old (7), have been living in the country for 6-10 years (6) and work in service (5). By way of contrast, Czechs, as reported by the respondents, are more handy, creative, better in manual jobs, and hard working as well. Seven people agreed on that in the questionnaire.

When it comes to an intercourse with different cultures, the respondents believe Czechs behave in a racist and xenophobic way, while Brits tolerate other cultures (4).

Five of the respondents claim they do not see much difference between the Czech and British character.

The findings of the research confirm the facts from the theoretical part Chapter 5 of this work which says that Czechs tend to be irritable, while Brits take life more easily. The fact that Brits are reserved and do not show their emotions corresponds with the theoretical part as well, nevertheless the survey did not confirm this about Czechs.

Question 7: “In your opinion, what is the difference between the way Czechs and Brits communicate? The difference between showing emotions, humour, etc.”

According to the respondents, there are considerable differences between the way Czechs and Brits communicate. Nevertheless, the opinions of individual Czechs participating in the research vary. Seven people answered to the question that British people do not show any emotions in public, another seven respondents claim Brits tend to display the emotions, especially the happy ones. What the participants of the questionnaire (24) agree on is that Brits are more positive than Czechs. British people smile a lot, laugh in public, hug more, they are

open, friendly, and nice to the strangers. The most respondents who agreed on that are 31-40 years old (11), have been living in the country for 1-3 years (8) and work in service (10). On the opposite, Czechs have got an inclination to complain about everything, the respondents (10) say. During a casual conversation they mention what troubles them much more often than Brits, frequent topic of the complaints is politics and politicians. The findings correspond with the facts which can be found in the specialized literature.

However, there is an agreement among the respondents that British positivity might be only affected. Fifteen of them agree on that. While Czechs usually act honestly and straightforwardly, say what they think, even at the cost of expressing antipathies or being impolite, Brits declare they are doing great no matter how bad they might really feel. It could be connected to the fact, as some (4) of the respondents see it, that Brits have got many shallow acquaintances, yet not so many real friendships or close relationships. On the ground of this assertion, Czech respondents declare British people would not talk about their feelings, only with someone who is very close to them. Because they do not want to discuss their feelings, they do not even ask other people about personal things. The most people who hold this opinion are between 26 – 30 years old (6), have been living in the country for 4 -5 years (5) and work in service (7).

The findings slightly differ from the Englund's statement (2009, p. 64) declaring Czechs say things they do not really mean.

Considering humour, Czechs (23) find it quite similar. Both cultures like sarcastic and dark humour. The difference is that Czechs are more open and direct, the research showed. They are not afraid to joke about politically incorrect topics which would be offensive in Britain. Brits are more careful when it comes to joking. They make sure not to insult anyone. This discovery contradicts the Whitton and Whitton's (2009, p. 64) claim that Brits are not afraid to make jokes about the Prime Minister or the Queen. The most of the Czechs who think that the Czech and British humour is very similar are 18-25 years old (9), have been living in Britain for 1-3 years (7) and work in service (12).

Question 8: "In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British leisure activities? The difference between spending the free time, passive and active sport activities, socializing, etc."

Another question was inquiring about the Czech and British leisure activities. One third of the respondents do not see any or big difference between spending free time in British and Czech culture. Both Czechs and Brits like socializing with friends, spending time in pubs or having a barbecue, being outdoors, walking, doing some sports, and cycling. The most of the respondents who see it this way are 31-40 years old (15), have been living in the country for more than 10 years (15) and work in service (9).

When it comes to sports, mutual favourite is football. British also like rugby, golf, or horses, while Czechs prefer football and ice hockey, the responses show. Some difference is in the winter sport activities, the respondents claim (2) Brits do not do any, whereas Czechs enjoy skiing, snowboarding, or ice skating.

Socializing is more natural in Britain as Brits like talking to people they do not know (6). Nevertheless, considering group activities like exercising, Zumba, etc., it seems more a Czech thing to do.

The respondents (6) find the Czech Republic richer in cultural activities. Visiting castles is seen as a typical Czech activity. Another favourite interests which differ from the British way of spending the free time are hiking in the mountains, going for walks (commonly beside a river, this area is also often used for skating or cycling) and spending time in the forest, especially picking mushrooms. According to the respondents, Brits like relaxing in nature as well, but they usually choose park.

The respondents often mentioned (10) that Brits like drinking alcohol on various kinds of occasion. Another favourite British activity is going to the parties regardless of one's age. People participating in the survey claim that British adults and elderly are also more open to try new things, the pensioners seem to be more active in Britain than in the Czech Republic. The most of these responses were from people who are 31-40 years old (5), have been living in Britain for 4-5 (3) or 6-10 (3) years and work in service (4).

The DIY is stated as a Czech speciality. Czechs enjoy doing things themselves, are handier than Brits who rather leave the work for specialists, four respondents claim.

The findings of the questionnaire mostly correspond with the facts mentioned in the theoretical part of the thesis apart from the "DIY activities" which, according to Kate Fox (2004, p. 43-44), Brits enjoy as well.

Question 9: “In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British food and drinks? The difference between mealtimes, traditional cuisine, favourite foodstuffs and drinks, etc.”

Considering differences between Czech and British food, the respondents’ opinions are very homogenous. The most repeated answers (14) were that Czechs enjoy cooking at home more, their food is complicated and usually made from scratch (3). They also know how to cook with little ingredients. On the contrary, Brits do not cook at home that much (11) which disproves the assertion of Whitton and Whitton (2009, p. 51) from the theoretical part who claim that British homecooked meal is better than that served in the restaurants. On the other hand, Collins’ words (2008, p. 27) were confirmed. Take away, fast food, or eating in a restaurant appears to be preferred (33). There is also a huge variety of ready meals (2). The most of the people who claim that Czechs cook at home more and Brits enjoy take away, fast food, or restaurants are 26-30 years old (11), have been living in Britain for more than 10 years (11) and work in service (13). The participants in the research see the motives for that in the fact that Brits have not got time to cook and rather spend the money to buy some already prepared food. Another reason may be that there are many restaurants, cafés, or snack bars and therefore it is easier to get some food outside. There is a large selection of places offering foreign cuisine (7).

When Brits decide to cook at home, as the survey shows, the choice usually falls on local production – British meat, British milk, etc.

As it was mentioned in the theoretical part before (Chapter 7), according to the respondents, the huge difference is in the mealtimes. As the survey shows, Czechs tend to adhere to regular eating regime (breakfast, snack, lunch, snack, dinner) in which case breakfast often includes bread or roll with butter and ham or jam, lunch, as the main meal of the day, usually consists of two courses, soup and warm meal (21). It is nothing extraordinary for Czechs to eat warm meal for dinner as well, the respondents think. The participants of the survey claim that in Britain, on the other hand, the main and biggest meal of the day is dinner (8). It is usually served at a specific time (e.g. 6pm) and the whole family likes to sit and eat together. During the rest of the day Brits favour light snacks like sandwiches, cakes, or crisps. The most of the respondents who think there is a difference between Czech and British mealtimes are 31-40 years old (9), have been living in the country for more than 10 years (9) and work in service (6).

Czechs who participated in the questionnaire (3) declare that British cuisine does involve only limited number of traditional meals. Among them belong fish and chips, cottage pie, full English breakfast (eggs, beans, mushrooms, tomatoes, sausage, toast), or Sunday roast. Other favourites are pork and lamb. Conversely, traditional Czech cuisine, according to the respondents (4), is much more diverse. The individual meals are also more complicated and take longer time to prepare.

Regarding drinks, the respondents (15) claim that both cultures like beer. Brits are also fond of drinking tea with milk.

Conclusion

The main aim of the bachelor's thesis was to show differences between Czech and British culture viewed by Czechs living in Britain. The theoretical part presented the topics of communication, culture, and intercultural communication. It also concerned with barriers in intercultural communication and specific differences between Czech and British culture.

The survey in the practical part was based on a questionnaire inquiring about experience Czechs living in Britain have got with barriers in communication and about their view of specific differences between Czech and British culture depending on their age, length of the stay in the country, and occupation. Based on the survey, the following conclusions can be drawn:

How do Czechs of different occupations, age, and length of the stay in the country, living in Britain perceive the barriers in communication with Brits?

The most of the Czechs living in Britain who have got some experience with barriers in communication with Brits are 31-40 years old, have been living in the country for more than 10 years and work in service. These people often met with an idea that Czechs come from Eastern Europe and are less educated. Another usual prejudiced opinion about Czechs is that the level of development in the Czech Republic is very low. Czechs who have been asked whether there is a TV, colour TV, or electricity in their home country, are mostly 31-40 years old, have been living in Britain for 6-10 years and work in service.

What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their length of stay in the country?

People who have been living in Britain for 1-3 years claim that Brits are more polite and do not show their emotions. According to them, Czechs are sometimes too rude. They find the humour same in both cultures. Friendliness, as a British quality, was mentioned by many respondents no matter how long their stay in the country is. Czechs living in the country for 4-5 years mention Brits are not honest a lot. They assert British people like drinking alcohol more than Czechs and enjoy going to parties in every age. Most of the respondents whose stay in Britain is 6-10 years long claim that Brits are more open minded than Czechs and enjoy their life more. Based on these findings, it seems that the longer Czechs stay in the country, the better they see the true British character.

Many people living in Britain for more than 10 years do not see any difference between Czech and British leisure activities. This might be caused by the fact that these Czechs got already used to the British way of living so much that they do not see many differences. These people also mention that Czechs cook at home, while Brits prefer fast foods and restaurants the most.

What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their age?

The most differences are viewed by people who are 26-30 or 31-40 years old. Possible reason could be that the younger respondents are more tolerant of the differences between people and their cultures. Differences in character and way of communication were mostly mentioned by people who are between 31-40 years old. They claim Brits are more polite, friendly, and relaxed, less judgemental, and honest. Their opinion about Czechs is that they are complaining more, nevertheless they are more hard working and direct. British friendliness was most frequently mentioned by people who are 26-30 years old. The age of the respondents also influenced the way they see the difference between Czech and British food. The fact that Czechs cook at home, while Brits prefer fast food or restaurants was stated the most by people between 26-30 years.

What are the differences in the views of Czechs living in Britain on different aspects of Czech and British cultures depending on their occupation?

Czechs working in service see the main difference between the Czech and British character and way of communication in British politeness, friendliness, and relaxed way of life. Probably because they meet with Brits on an everyday basis, but the intercourse is only shallow. The politeness and friendliness was also mentioned a lot by people working in administration. Leisure activities seem to be very similar in both cultures especially for Czechs who work in health care, management, and service. People working in administration and service notice the British tendency to eat in fast food chains or restaurants the most. Lunch being eaten as a main meal of the day in the Czech Republic was mentioned by all of the occupation categories in the similar frequency.

An uneven distribution of demographic categories (the lack of male respondents or people older than 50) can be count among the weak points of the survey. A possible way to improve these

weak points would be to ask the female respondents to engage their husbands, boyfriends, or male friends into the survey as well.

Based on the conclusions revealed in the survey it would be possible to create a teaching material suitable for teaching culture differences during English lessons at Czech secondary schools. As culture affects the way people communicate, it is essential for the students to know about these differences.

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Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Differences between Cultures Viewed by Czechs Living in Britain

What is your age?

18-25 26-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61 and more

What is your gender?

Male Female

How Long have you been living in Britain?

1-3 years 4-5 years 6-10 years More than 10 years

What is your job?

.....

1. In your opinion, during a conversation with a person from another country, is it important to know something about their culture?

Yes No

Other/Comments

2. Have you ever had any trouble understanding a British person because of the difference in cultures?

Yes No

Other/Comments

3. Intercultural communication can be affected by barriers like prejudice, or stereotypes which manifest themselves in a negative attitude towards people from different cultures, hasty assumptions, etc. Have you got any experience with this kind of behaviour?

Yes No

If yes, describe your experience, please.

.....

4. Did you have any prejudiced opinion about British people before you came to the country?

Yes No

If yes, describe the opinion, please.

.....

If yes, was the opinion right?

Yes No

Other/Comments

5. Ethnophaulisms are special terms used by one ethnic group to name another one (in Czech we have got words like Rusák, Ťaman, and so on). Are there any terms like this that British people use to name Czechs?

Yes No

If yes, write these terms.

.....

6. In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British character? The difference between an attitude towards life in general, the way people act in public, etc.

.....

7. In your opinion, what is the difference between the way Czechs and Brits communicate? The difference between showing emotions, humour, etc.

.....

8. In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British leisure activities? The difference between spending the free time, passive and active sport activities, socializing, etc.

.....

9. In your opinion, what is the difference between Czech and British food and drinks? The difference between mealtimes, traditional cuisine, favourite foodstuffs and drinks, etc.

.....

Appendix 2: Tables

Age	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
18-25	12	0
26-30	23	7
31-40	25	11
41-50	17	5
51-60	3	0

Table 9: Answers to the question No. 1 with respect to the age of the respondents.

Lenght of the stay	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
1-3 years	22	2
4-5 years	13	4
6-10 years	24	4

More than 10 years	12	13
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Table 10: Answers to the question No. 1 with respect to the length of the stay.

Occupation	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
Administration	10	10
Health care	12	5
IT	6	2
Management	5	0
Manual/Technical	6	3
Service	18	10
Student	8	1
Other	4	3

Table 11: Answers to the question No. 1 with regards to the occupation of the respondents.

Age	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
18-25	7	5
26-30	13	19
31-40	18	24
41-50	10	10

51-60	2	0
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Table 12: Answers to the question No. 2 with regards to the age of the respondents.

Lenght of the stay	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
1-3 years	10	15
4-5 years	20	10
6-10 years	15	14
More than 10 years	15	20

Table 13: Answers to the question No. 2 with regards to the lenght of the stay.

Occupation	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
Administration	7	6
Health care	8	9
IT	4	3
Management	5	10
Manual/Technical	4	3
Service	13	15
Student	6	2
Other	2	5

Table 14: Answers to the question No. 2 with regards to the occupation of the respondents.

Age	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
18-25	4	8
26-30	14	19
31-40	21	21
41-50	13	9
51-60	0	3

Table 15: Answers to the question No. 3 with regards to the age of the respondents.

Lenght of the stay	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
1-3 years	7	18
4-5 years	10	10
6-10 years	16	14
More than 10 years	19	18

Table 16: Answers to the question No. 3 with regards to the lenght of the stay.

Occupation	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
Administration	7	5
Health care	10	8
IT	5	3

Management	6	9
Manual/Technical	3	5
Service	12	17
Student	3	5
Other	3	4

Table 17: Answers to the question No. 3 with regards to the occupation of the respondents.

Age	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
18-25	3	9
26-30	11	22
31-40	12	31
41-50	3	19
51-60	1	2

Table 18: Answers to the question No. 4 with regards to the age of the respondents.

Lenght of the stay	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
1-3 years	8	17
4-5 years	5	15
6-10 years	10	20

More than 10 years	7	30
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Table 19: Answers to the question No. 4 with regards to the length of the stay.

Occupation	Number of respondents who answered “yes”	Number of respondents who answered “no”
Administration	2	11
Health care	6	10
IT	3	3
Management	3	8
Manual/Technical	0	7
Service	9	21
Student	3	5
Other	3	3

Table 20: Answers to the question No. 4 with regards to the occupation of the respondents.

Age	Number of respondents who answered “yes”
18-25	1
26-30	8
31-40	9
41-50	4

51-60	2
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Table 21: Answers to the question No. 5 with regards to the age of the respondents.

Lenght of the stay	Number of respondents who answered “yes”
1-3 years	2
4-5 years	4
6-10 years	11
More than 10 years	7

Table 22: Answers to the question No. 5 with regards to the lenght of the stay.

Occupation	Number of respondents who answered “yes”
Administration	4
Health care	7
IT	3
Management	0
Manual/Technical	3
Service	6
Student	1
Other	0

Table 23: Answers to the question No. 5 with regards to the occupation of the respondents.

Anotace

Jméno a příjmení:	Markéta Hoždorová
Katedra nebo ústav:	Ústav cizích jazyků
Vedoucí práce:	Mgr. Blanka Babická, Ph.D.
Rok obhajoby:	2021

Název závěrečné práce:	Differences between Cultures Viewed by Czechs Living in Britain
Název závěrečné práce v angličtině:	Rozdíly mezi kulturami z pohledu Čechů žijících v Británii
Anotace závěrečné práce:	Závěrečná práce se zabývá rozdíly mezi kulturami z pohledu Čechů žijících v Británii. Teoretická část je zaměřena na problematiku interkulturní komunikace, bariér v interkulturní komunikaci a rozdíly mezi českou a britskou kulturou. Praktická část zkoumá zkušenosti Čechů žijících v Británii s konkrétními bariérami v interkulturní komunikaci a jejich pohled na rozdíly mezi českým a britským charakterem a způsobem komunikace, volnočasovými aktivitami, jídlem a pitím.

Klíčová slova:	Kultura, komunikace, interkulturní komunikace, bariéry v interkulturní komunikaci, rozdíly mezi kulturami, Británie
Přílohy vázané v práci:	
Rozsah práce:	56 stran
Jazyk práce:	Anglický jazyk