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**THE PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED STUDENTS IN
LITHUANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

Summary of Doctoral Dissertation

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VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO UNIVERSITETAS

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INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the work. Education for disabled¹ not only offers the possibility to be equitably involved into public life, but is also a fundamental right that is guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights on Persons with Disabilities (2006) which has been ratified by Lithuania in 2010. Under the Convention, persons with disabilities can access an inclusive education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live. In Ebersold's (2004) view, education expands lifelong learning opportunities, promotes societal integration and through a recognition of the right not to be excluded, disabled people see themselves as contributing and equal members of society and creators of their own opportunities and futures. It is of mutual benefit for all citizens when disabled people are included in society as consumers and employees (Fleischer and Zames, 2001; Vorhaus, 2005). Although the right to higher education and its accessibility is stated in national legislation², disabled students still encounter problems such as physical and informational inaccessibility of their environment, a lack of adapted training and educational materials (literature in braille, audio books, etc.), living conditions (e.g. in dormitories) not adapted to their specific needs, a need of assistants and a negative attitude of some members of the academic community (Ruškus et al. 2007). Participation in higher education studies programs with equal rights is restricted by aforementioned various kinds of obstacles (Barton and Corbett, 1992), whereas young disabled persons experience uncertainty and worry regarding their future (Holloway, 2001). Ergo, disabled can get into higher education, however equal participation in the studies process is not guaranteed.

Lately a significant increase of disabled students in higher education institutions is noticeable in Western societies (OECD, 2003). For example, in the United Kingdom the number has grown from 5,3 % (2003) to 6,5% (2006) and in Germany from 12,5% (2003) to 18,9% (2006) of the entire student population. Worth to take into account is that the number of disabled students abroad is varying from 0.3% to 19%. However, international comparisons might be not exact, because there are different conceptions of

¹ Up to 2005 term “invalid” was used in many Lithuanian researches. The Disabled Social Integration Law was amended in 2005, and the term “invalid” was replaced by the term “disabled” as used in this dissertation.

² Lithuanian Republic Law on Higher Education (2000), Lithuanian Republic Constitution (1996), Lithuanian Republic Law on Disabled Social Integration (2005), e.t.c.

disability and the criteria's of its determination (Bagdonas, Lazutka, Vareikytė, Žalimienė, 2007). The number of disabled students entering further education after secondary school has increased, although with little allowance for student preferences in their education and skills training (Barnes and Mercer, 2010). Higher education accessibility and support provision for disabled is a multi-layered issue encompassing the physical, attitudinal and curricular aspects (Shevlin, Kenny and Mcneela, 2004). According to Riddel, Tinklin and Wilson (2005) there are more disabled students in higher education and more support services as we move ever further into the twenty-first century. Disabled students are more likely to come from upper/middle class and less likely to be members of ethnic minority groups. The majority of disabled is male and tends to be slightly older than their able-bodied course mates. Predominating types of impairments are dyslexia and somatic impairments such as epilepsy and diabetes. Most disabled students are reluctant to adopt a disabled identity and only a minority is acquainted with disability politics and the disabled person's movement. Yet the support provision remains smaller than existing needs, even though a lot of higher education institutions have established especially hereto dedicated disability support services. The reluctance to provide extra support or to practice alternative evaluation assessment modes is particularly recognizable in old universities.

It is evident that higher education in post-communist countries remains particularly inaccessible, with pervasive physical barriers and, up to now, without policies to better higher education accessibility for disabled (Holland, 2008). Disabled students in Lithuania are persons who have special educational needs regarding their innate or gained impairments (Lithuanian Republic Law on Education, 2011). It should be emphasized that according to the Lithuanian Law on Science and Studies (2009), persons with no lower than secondary education are on the competitive basis matriculated to first level studies and continuous study programs. Ambrukaitis (2001) data reveals that there were 193 disabled students in the 2000/2001 academic year. Regarding the data of the Lithuanian National Union of Students, the number of disabled students has increased up to 1026 in the 2009/2010 academic year. Worth noticing is the decrease of disabled student's number lately: 878 in 2011/2012 academic year, meaning 0.5 % of all students. Also, only a quarter of the disabled students impairment types is known, out of which 40 % has somatic impairments, 30% -

mobility and 14% sight (Valentinavičius, 2012). It is not obligatory to disclose ones' disability in higher education institutions in Lithuania, therefore it is not certain which impairment type is dominating. The majority of disabled students abroad are having learning disabilities (dyslexia, dysgraphia) (Madriaga, 2007). These types of impairments are being mentioned in the context of secondary education (Lithuanian Republic Order of the Minister of Education and Science, 2010), however they are not evident in higher education.

Although the number of disabled students in Lithuanian higher education institutions is increasing, their participation in student life does not follow that trend (Daugėla, 2004). According to Ruškus et al. (2007), disabled persons are often excluded because they do not have socially valuable roles. For example, to be a student, firstly, does mean to actively study, develop your competences, participate in society, prepare to be a competent and good specialist in your field and create added value to the welfare of the society. It can be concluded that an empowered – active and initiating – disabled student has characteristics needed to be a citizen and become a resource for higher education institutions. That means that a person who can take commitments and can participate responsibly in the decision making process in institutions.

However, disabled students' participation in decision making practices and/or in academic community activities is still a rare practice in Lithuania. There is also a tendency in disabled peoples' movements for their rights that successful actions of disabled leaders and disabled people mobilization is leading towards social changes (Foster-Fishman, Jimenez, Valenti, Kelley, 2007). It is important to note that active disabled people participation has had a critical role while promoting deinstitutionalization and sociality in post-communist Central and East Europe (Holland, 2008). For this reason, there is a need to analyze experiences of those few actively participating disabled students and to comprehend what circumstances stimulate their action and participation. What kind of impact does it make on the changes in the higher education institutions and the academic community? How does the disabled students' identity transform while expanding their participation?

This dissertation is related with a critical theory which is often thought as referring to the Frankfurt Critical Theory School to whom M. Horkheimer, E. Fromm, H. Marcuse and T. Adorno belonged. For Critical theory in a broad sense we can refer

to P. Freire, M. Foucault, P. Bourdieu, J. Habermas, A. Giddens, Z. Bauman, T. Shakespeare, e.t.c. Critical theory does criticize Marxism and is therefore being considered as a distinct variant of neo-marxism (Ritzer, 1996). This theory is composed of criticisms on various aspects of social and intellectual life with its principle goal to reveal more accurately the nature of society. The main focus of critical theorists is how human activity affects larger social structures. One of the interests of the Critical school is domination, which is seen as conditioned by societal and cultural structures and denies the belief that it is natural and inevitable. Critical theory analyzes the cultural suppression of the individual in a contemporary society wherein control is seen as being pervaded in all cultural world and interiorized by an actor itself. As a result, individuals start to dominate against themselves in the name of the larger social structures. Of great importance here is the approach of dialectics that one component of social life cannot be studied in isolation from the historical entirety or social structure.

The critical theorists are also interested in the relations and interaction between practice and theory. Their ultimate goal is that theory would be informed by practice, whereas practice would be shaped by theory and this process would result in the mutual enrichment. Creation of knowledge never is a final satisfactory moment for a critical research. The principal aspects of critical research are human emancipation and critical thinking which raise consciousness of individuals and lead then into social movement (Horkheimer, 1982). Inquiry which is named as critical must be connected to an attempt to confront the injustice of a particular group or society (Kincheloe ir McLaren, 1994). This dissertation attempts to reveal the domination of able-bodied in higher education through the experiences of disabled students. In particular the focus is how disabled students – the dominated ones are functioning in higher education which naturally operates according to the needs of dominating – able-bodied. The reality of higher education will be perceived by able-bodied as normal and taken for granted as long as the consciousness towards the needs of disabled people participation will remain unknown and vague. Of great importance here is the role of disabled to speak out about their experiences and to pursue the changes. The inevitable condition of raising the consciousness of able-bodied thereby is growing critical thinking and emancipation of disabled students themselves. The requirements of emancipatory and inclusive perspectives were incorporated into the dissertation research (Kitchin, 2000; Barnes,

2003). Accordingly, the consultations with the informants were performed during conduction of the research, alike the feedback about the truthfulness of the data was received after the completion of the dissertation.

In Ebersold's (2007) formulation, social participation is defined as an individual's activity in an open community while invoking his interior and exterior resources. However, the fact of doing an activity does not literally mean participation per se which desirably should be related with solving the real problems. In this case particularly, participation of disabled students in higher education institutions is tightly linked with bettering studying conditions. Consequently, Ebersold distincts two main directions of the development of social participation. The first one is related with the building of social contacts regarding further close cooperation. The second one is related with an empowerment of the individual regarding his full involvement in the life of society. Hence, the disabled person is being perceived as an equal partner in making decisions and solving problems. Therefore the realization of social participation does mean that from now on the society (institutions, specialists, e.t.c) are changing according to its members' needs and not vice versa – that disabled are adapting and conforming to society. Accordingly, Freire (2000) suggests that society starts to take into account the needs of disabled people because of the following reason: individuals reject "silence culture" and become critically thinking, treating themselves as subjects who are capable to change social reality. Ruškus and Mažeikis (2007), who are developing the social participation paradigm in the context of Lithuania, summarize that as a result of such kind of participation, disability is seen as a precondition of a person's individuation and person-oriented social relations.

A. Giddens' theory of structuration (Giddens, 1984) is applied for the analysis of the disabled students' participation in Lithuanian higher education institutions. The routinization of daily life in universities and colleges is functioning accordingly to the needs of able-bodied academic community members until the moment when a disabled student enters higher education. In this regard, an equal participation of disabled is being constrained in various kinds of situations during the studying process. Therefore disabled students start to implement their agency in pursue of bettering studying conditions. Consequently, the study organization process is starting to change. Disabled students in this dissertation do reveal themselves as self-conscious and as having a

motivation of action. Also, they are capable of making a change in social world. In contrast, this view of disabled persons hugely differs from the dominating disability discourse in society. Public opinion is full of these images: loss (Watermeyer, 2009), passive dependence (Bochel et al. 2005; Barnes and Mercer, 2010), the lack of skills (Camilleri, 1999), wounded, humiliated (Hughes, 2009), tragedy (Kuppers, 2004). Therefore this research contributes to the formation of a positive image when disabled reveal themselves as competent, carrying responsibility and decisions.

Gender, ethnicity and race are the dominating topics in research on diversity in higher education, whereas the subject of disability rarely does get in between aforementioned categories (Rizvi and Lingard, 1996). As Kincheloe and McLaren (1994) point out, the categories of race, class and gender are like the concept of the Holy Trinity. The lack of scientific attention towards the subject of disability in the context of higher education does have some possible explanations. One possible explanation for the lack of scientific attention about the subject of disability may be the absence of a mobilized disabled students' movement herewith relative level of lobbying (Shakespeare, 1993). Another possible explanation lies in the greater focus on primary and secondary education of disabled since they often do not reach tertiary education at all (Rioux, 2007). The greater focus on primary and secondary education of disabled people is also evident in the World Report on Disability (2011). Researchers became interested in understanding the problems faced by disabled students in higher education around 1980 (OECD, 2003) when antidiscrimination policy and the first laws on equal rights for disabled persons were enacted (Ruškus et al. 2007). So far the exploration of these issues was mostly through individual studies (Hurst, 1998). Disabled students are a very different and heterogeneous group, although the stereotypical images of disability strongly emphasize the ones who are using a wheelchair and also a few other 'classic' groups as blind or deaf (Foster-Fishman et al. 2007). As a result, those with visible disabilities find themselves in the limelight of researchers, while those who have hidden somatic or psychic impairments end up second place (Boyd, 2012). In addition, Fox and Kim stress that persons with 'emerging' disabilities for the most part have lower education, experience greater difficulties in the daily life, have lower income and more frequent medical support (Fox and Kim, 2004). A large part of the sociological researches on education had a focus on presentation and analysis of inequality itself,

instead of shifting the focus on the ways how to reduce or eliminate it (Lynch, 2000). So, to summarize, there is a lack of research in Lithuania on disabled students' participation and empowerment experiences. Also, there is a growing number of disabled students in Lithuanian higher education institutions, however the study conditions do not change at the same pace. Consequently, **the problem of the research** does consist of the ultimate question: how disabled students themselves are seeking for their special needs to be taken into account and as well as bettering their studying conditions in higher education institutions in Lithuania.

The object of the research – the participation of disabled students in higher education institutions.

The aim of the research – to create a grounded theory about disabled students participation in Lithuanian higher education institutions.

The questions of the research

- How are disabled students implementing their agency while participating in the study process in higher education institutions?
- How does the creation of studying conditions take place in higher education institutions regarding the interaction between disabled students and the members of the academic community?
- How does the disabled student's identity change during participation in higher education?

The objectives of the work

- To discuss theoretical models of disability, the public discourses of disability in the perspective of theoretical models of disability and also the peculiarities of the development of disabled person's identity.
- To discuss theoretical background of the higher education openness tendencies, as well as the practical standards needing to be taken into account by institutions in order to guarantee inclusion for disabled students.

- To present the analysis of the disabled students' situation in higher education, regarding these aspects: the existence of special educational needs and its meeting opportunities, the problems of accounting disabled students and finally, the questions of legal regulations.
- To analyze how disabled students' participation in higher education institution can be studied through the prism of A. Giddens' theory of structuration.
- To base and explain the parameters of grounded theory about disabled students' participation in Lithuanian higher education institutions regarding empirical research.

The novelty of the work

The subject of diversity in higher education was researched mainly focusing on gender, race and ethnicity. For instance, Vasquez (1982) carried out a study on the existing barriers of participation in higher education for the American-Mexican females. Morrow and Torres (1994) were analyzing the interaction of class, race and gender in the process of education, Freeman (1997) was researching what kind of barriers African-Americans are experiencing while entering and participating in higher education. Archer et al. (2001) analyzed how gender, race and class interaction is related with non-participation of males in higher education. Schuetze and Slowey (2002) conducted a comparative analysis of ten countries mainly focusing on how non-traditional students are being met in higher education institutions. In contrast, there were researches dedicated to a more practical approach. Warren's (2002) study was dedicated to determine how to adapt study programs to a more heterogeneous student group. Also, Osborne (2003) has looked into the development of higher education accessibility and expanding participation opportunities in Europe.

Ebersold and Evans (OECD, 2003) carried out a comprehensive study reviewing disability access in higher education institutions. These researchers analyzed data from France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Canada. The following criteria were used: what were the possibilities for disabled students to receive education; how did the legal framework ensure accessibility in higher education; what financing mechanism worked for disabled students; what support or assistance was provided for disabled students and higher education institutions; what strategies did higher education

institutions use for enrolment and graduation; was adapted accommodation available, were programs of distance learning available, and how was aid provided? In general, the situation of disabled students in higher education abroad is being researched from various angles. To start with, the learning experiences and transition from secondary to tertiary education was studied by Leicester and Lovell (1997) and Gibson (2012). Goode (2007) was studying what kind of obstacles and barriers disabled students are facing in higher education and also what would be the ways to avoid them. Vickerman and Blundel (2010) were interested in analyzing problems experienced by disabled students in different stages of studies: in the transition process from secondary to tertiary education, during their studying years and finally in the career orientation phase. Furthermore, case studies of higher education institutions focusing on the social and learning experiences of disabled students were carried out by Fuller, Bradley and Healey (2004), Shevlin et al. (2004). Riddell et al. (2005) were interested in how the social justice principle is being guaranteed in higher education. Madriaga (2007) and Collinson and Penketh (2010) were researching learning experiences of students with dyslexia. Konur (2000) has implemented an analysis of legal documents regarding higher education and disability in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Ash et al. (1997) were focusing on the able-bodied students' attitude towards disabled students, their awareness level on special needs of disabled people and what the relationships are between them.

In Lithuania, disabled people became subject to research more than a decade ago. However, according to Ruškus et al. (2007), there is little research into disabled people studying in higher education compared to that in general education or into of disabled people in the state and disability in general. In summary, it could be stated that Lithuanian researches on disabled students in higher education review the situation in the whole country, since the situation in higher education institutions situated in different regions is being examined. According to Sarantaka (2005) these researches could be assigned to applied researches because they are focused on practical application and problem-solving. It is notable that Ambrukaitis (2001), Grincevičienė (2002), Klimavičienė, Aželskienė and Matuzevičiūtė (2003), Daugėla (2004) and Ruškus et al. (2007) developed recommendations of improving the environment of disabled students in higher education institutions based on their researches. Research

(Ambrukaitis, 2001; Grincevičienė, 2002, Klimavičienė et al., 2003; Adomaitienė and Ostasevičienė, 2004; Ruškus et al. 2007; Ruolytė 2005-2010³; Daugėla and Žukauskas, 2005) revealed statistical demographic data and problems of disabled students (an inaccessible physical and information environment; lack of compensatory equipment and services for fulfill special needs; negative attitude towards disabled students from some members of the academic society; problems of disability disclosure, etc.). Abovementioned researches also identified obstacles that face higher education institutions improving conditions for disabled: a lack of information on special needs caused by disability and necessary adjustments; necessity of dialogue between higher education institution, non-governmental organizations and disabled students and also lack of funding. For example, problems identified in Klimavičienė et al. (2003) research were the same as in Ambrukaitis' (2001) research. This example clearly shows that in both research on higher education institution employees' opinions and on disabled students' opinions the same problems are identified. Ruškus et al. (2004, 2007), Daugėla (2004) paid more attention to personal experiences and emotional/psychological and motivational factors of study.

Several researches dealt with the problems of students with different types of disability: Daugėla and Žukauskas (2005) examined problems of students with mobility impairment, Ruškus and Žakarienė (2004) analyzed problems of blind and visually impaired, and Klimavičienė et al. (2003) examined problems of students with a hearing disability. So far no research on problems of students with learning disability (dyslexia, dysgraphia) was performed. Daugėla (2007) claims that at present there are no mechanisms to determine a disability level for persons with learning disabilities. Although these students are provided with pedagogical and psychological support during their learning in secondary school, in higher education

After this review, it is evident that there is a need of successive purposeful researches of disabled students' experiences in the field of higher education. Up until now, there is a lack of research which would analyze the transition process from secondary to tertiary education, personal experiences of disabled students in higher

³ These surveys of Lithuanian National Union of Students were carried out by the author of this dissertation. The main reason why these resources are being quoted is that in the reference period this organization was the only one who was carrying out and observing situation about higher education accessibility issues for disabled.

education, their participation, empowerment, self-representation and disability disclosure topics. Particular attention should be paid to experiences of disabled professors and staff of higher education institutions working with disabled, the preconditions and opportunities of initiating the dialogue in higher education, analysis of the quality of teaching and assessing disabled students. Lastly, there are no researches about the studying problems experiences by students with learning disabilities (dyslexia, dysgraphia).

In such a context, this dissertation about disabled students' participation in higher education institutions provides an opportunity to see this field from a new angle. Hence, the importance of the role of disabled persons while implementing agency is being highlighted, as a result of which the social practices in higher education institutions are changing. Therefore, disabled students are seen and perceived as active participants in the study process, capable of making an impact on bettering studying conditions. Of great importance is that the participants of the research have different kinds of disabilities. Moreover, the grounded theory about disabled student's participation in Lithuanian higher education institutions has been created for the first time.

The methods of the work

Despite a wide range of research the 'voice' of disabled students was rarely heard (Fuller et al. 2004). Most of the information about disabled people in society originated from non-disabled people and through public opinion about them (Linton, 1998; Kitchin, 2000; Sunderland, Catalano and Kendall, 2009; Watermeyer, 2009). The Grounded Theory, which was created by B. Glaser and A. Strauss, was chosen here as the methodology of qualitative research with the purpose to fixate the authenticity of disabled students' experiences and to understand the process of their participation in higher education. First of all, it is recommended to use Grounded theory when there is a need to generate a theoretical model in a field where little research has been done. Secondly, the importance of creating concepts on the basis of the subjective experience of research participants using their original language is being stressed in the Grounded theory. It is necessary to mention that the generation of concepts is based on specific methodological procedures. Finally, the goal of the Grounded theory is to find out and

generate new hypotheses about the studied phenomenon, based on subjective experiences of research participants, instead of trying to verify the ones formulated before the research. This dissertation is mainly based on Strauss and Corbin's (1990) variant of the Grounded theory.

These methods were used in the dissertation: an analysis of scientific literature, semi-structured interviews and Grounded theory constructing phases – open, axial and selective coding.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

This work consists of an introduction, six main chapters, conclusions, recommendations, a bibliographical list and an appendix.

The introductory part of the thesis discusses the relevance of the topic, introduces the problem of the research and presents its objects, aims, questions and objectives. Also the methods of working, the novelty of the research, the structure of the work and the approbation of the dissertation results are presented. The first two parts of the dissertation are theoretical. The first part “Disabled students in higher education” consists out of three chapters. Firstly there is a sociological analysis of disability: disability models, discourses and the frames of identity formation created by them. Secondly, higher education openness for disabled is being discussed: what are the tendencies of guaranteeing equal opportunities in higher education in both theoretical and practical levels; what are the conditions and standards necessary to be met by higher education institutions in order to be open for disabled. Finally, an analysis of the situation of disabled students in Lithuanian higher education institutions is being presented, distinguishing the angles of support provision in higher education institutions, the limitations of disabled students accounting and in the end – legal regulations. The second theoretical part “Agent implementing agency in A. Giddens’ theory of structuration“ discusses how disabled students’ participation can be analyzed by using the theory of structuration.

The third part of the dissertation introduces the research methodology and consists out of five chapters. Firstly, the Grounded theory is presented as chosen qualitative research strategy and the role of the researcher is presented. Secondly, the

research methods and systemic procedures of data analysis are introduced. Thirdly, the sampling and socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants are discussed. Further on, the ethics of the research is noted and, finally, follow the reflections of the researcher.

The fourth – empirical – part consists of three main chapters which are organized regarding the methodological logic of the Grounded theory. In the first chapter of open coding five stories of students with different kind of disabilities are presented. In the second chapter of axial coding five main phenomenon are presented: Confrontation in higher education institution: *“In the beginning it was hard to study”*, The directions of participation: *“There is full of me everywhere”*, Changing identity: „*I am an ordinary student*”, The importance of an attitude: „*The way people are thinking is more important than special arrangements*“ and finally the Necessity of continuity: „*The long way the university has to go to reach inclusion*“. In the third chapter of selective coding the theory of disabled students’ participation in Lithuanian higher education institutions *“The beginning starts with You”* is being presented.

The fourth part – discussion – is dedicated to analyze the empirical data in the light of A. Giddens‘ theory of structuration, models of disability and other researches in this field. The next chapter discusses limitations of the research. Finally the conclusions are formulated, followed by the recommendations for disabled students, politicians of education, staff of higher education institutions and for researchers. Furthermore the bibliographical list and the appendix containing feedback from the research participants are provided.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The features of the medical, social and interactional models of disability are being recognized in the practices of higher education institutions. When higher education institutions are using discourses formed by social and interactional models of disability, the least stigmatizing environment is being created. Accordingly, disability is seen as a situational issue, depending on the quality of created studying opportunities. As a consequence, there are more opportunities for disabled students to construct a positive student identity.
2. The principle of equal opportunities and higher education openness for more heterogeneous group of students is being presented in academic literature and political documents. “Non-standard” students are starting to enter higher education institutions. However, there is a lack of concrete conditions and tangible means to guarantee their equal and competitive participation. It is possible to achieve abovementioned goals on one condition: that the institution has to include diversity questions in all its practices. Consequently, the principle of implementing equal opportunities could be guaranteed in practice.
3. Disabled students can enter Lithuanian higher education institutions, although their quality of study depends on the studying conditions created by each institution individually. Generic guidelines on adaptation of the study organization process and forms of providing support are not documented. Moreover, there is a lack of social services designed to meet the needs of different kinds of disabled students. The absence of the unified registration of disabled students’ numbers in higher education institutions presupposes a lack of institutional interest to perceive the scope and specificity of this social group as an important issue. The principle of higher education accessibility for disabled is established by law, however there is a lack of directory and good practices on how to implement equal opportunities.
4. A. Giddens’ theory of structuration allows us to explain the disabled students’ participation in higher education institutions in Lithuania. Disabled students are seen as a social agent who does implement his agency during the study period. Consequently, the social practices in higher education institutions are changing. First of all, this theory

allows to develop and to show disabled students as reflective and critically thinking agents, who are acting purposefully to better their studying conditions. Secondly, this theory is showing the scope of changes in time and space which was reached by disabled students acting individually or collectively as a mobilized social group.

5. A grounded theory has been created which allows us to analyze the participation of disabled students in particular higher education institutions. The reasons of disabled students' individual acts are the restrictions of participation in institutions as well as their aspiration of equality. Disabled students are starting to eliminate the restrictions of participation according to their capacities: the studying conditions are being bettered, the attitude of the academic community towards disabled is being changed, civic initiatives are being implemented and finally there is a demonstration of competitiveness. The results of participation are being considered the self-perception of disabled as active and exercising power agents, changing attitude of academic community towards disabled and, finally, bettering of studying conditions.

REZIUMĖ

Išsilavinimas neigaliuose – ne tik galimybė lygiavertiškai įsilieti į visuomeninį gyvenimą, bet ir fundamentali teisė, užtikrinama Jungtinė Tautų Neigaliųjų Teisių Konvencijoje (2006), kuri 2010 m. buvo ratifikuota ir Lietuvoje. Pagal Konvenciją, neigalūs žmonės turi teisę lygiomis galimybėmis dalyvauti įtraukiančiame ugdyme kartu su kitais žmonėmis bendruomenėje, kurioje jie gyvena. Išsilavinimas išplečia mokymosi visą gyvenimą galimybes bei padeda įsilieti į visuomenę, o patys neigalieji jaučiasi visaverčiais bendruomenės nariais ir savo veiklos bei ateities kūrėjais, kai pripažįstamos ir įgyvendinamos jų teisės (Ebersold, 2004). Tuomet, kai neigalieji visuomenėje dalyvauja kaip piliečiai, vartotojai ar darbuotojai – naudą patiria visi (Fleischer ir Zames, 2001; Vorhaus, 2005). Lietuvos įstatyminėje bazėje⁴ deklaruojama teisė į aukštąjį moksą ir jo prieinamumą, tačiau studijuodami aukštojoje mokykloje neigalieji iki šiol susiduria su fizinės ir informacinės aplinkos pritaikymo problemomis, specialių paslaugų trūkumu, neigiamu kai kurių akademinių bendruomenės narių požiūriu (Ruškus ir kt., 2007). Minėtieji įvairaus pobūdžio kliuviniai trukdo lygiomis teisėmis dalyvauti aukštajų mokymų studijų programose (Barton ir Corbett, 1992), o neigalūs jaunuoliai išgyvena baimę ir netikrumą dėl savo ateities (Holloway, 2001). Neigalieji gali patekti į aukštąjį moksą, tačiau jų lygiavertiškas dalyvavimas studijų procese nėra užtikrinamas.

Pastaraisiais dešimtmeečiais pastebimas ženklus neigalių studentų skaičiaus augimas aukštosiose mokyklose užsienyje (OECD, 2003). Jungtinėje Karalystėje jis išaugo nuo 5,3 % (2003) iki 6,5% (2006), Vokietijoje – nuo 12,5% (2003) iki 18,9% (2006) nuo visų studentų skaičiaus. Užsienio šalyse neigaliųjų studentų skaičius varijuoja nuo 0,3% iki 19%. Pabrėžtina, jog tarptautiniai lyginimai negali būti laikomi kaip patikimi, nes šalyse skiriasi neigalumo samprata ir jo nustatymo kriterijai (Bagdonas, Lazutka, Vareikytė, Žalimienė, 2007). Neigaliųjų, po vidurinės mokyklos einančiųjų į aukštąją, skaičius auga, tačiau aukštosiose mokyklose jie susiduria su nedideliu dėmesio kreipimu į studento preferencijas jų mokslams ir išgūdžiams vystyti (Barnes ir Mercer, 2010). Aukštojo mokslo prieinamumas ir parama teikiama

⁴ Lietuvos Respublikos aukštojo mokslo įstatymas (2000), Lietuvos Respublikos Konstitucija (1996), Lietuvos Respublikos neigaliųjų socialinės integracijos įstatymas (2005) ir kt.

neigaliessiem yra daugiasluoksnis klausimas, kuris paliečia fizinius, požiūrio ir mokymo programų klausimus (Shevlin, Kenny ir Mcneela, 2004). Vakarų Europoje XXI amžiuje aukštajame moksle yra daugiau neigaliųjų studentų ir jiems teikiamų paramos paslaugų (Riddell, Tinklin ir Wilson, 2005). Pastebima, kad neigaliųjų studentai yra iš aukštesnės arba viduriniosios klasės ir rečiau būna iš etninių mažumų grupės. Didžioji dalis yra vyrai ir dažnai yra truputį vyresni nei jų igalūs bendrakursiai. Iš negalių tipų dominuoja: mokymosi sutrikimai – disleksija ir somatininiai sutrikimai – epilepsija ar diabetas. Didžioji dalis neigaliųjų studentų nenori prisijimti neigaliųjų tapatumo ir tik maža dalis susipažinusi su negalių politika ir neigaliųjų judėjimu.

Post-komunistinėse visuomenėse aukštasis mokslas išlieka su žymiais fiziniais barjerais ir faktiškai be aiškios studijų neigaliessiem prieinamumo didinimo politikos (Holland, 2008). Neigaliųjų⁵ studentai Lietuvoje – tai asmenys, kuriems dėl įgimtų ar įgytų sutrikimų atsiranda specialieji ugdymosi poreikiai (Lietuvos Respublikos Švietimo įstatymas, 2011). Pagal Lietuvos Respublikos Mokslo ir studijų įstatymą (2009) į aukštosios mokyklos pirmosios pakopos ir vientisujų studijų programas konkurso būdu priimami ne žemesnį kaip vidurinį išsilavinimą turintys asmenys. 2001 metais Lietuvoje studijavo 193 neigalūs studentai (Ambrukaitis, 2001). Remiantis Lietuvos studentų sajungos duomenimis, neigaliųjų studentų skaičius augo iki 2010 metų – 1026 studentai. Pastaraisiais metais pastebimas neigaliųjų studentų skaičiaus sumažėjimas: 2011/2012 akademiniai mokslo metais studijavo 878 studentai, tai sudaro 0.5 % neigaliųjų studentų nuo visų studentų skaičiaus. Žinomas tik ketvirtadalio negalių turinčių studentų negalių pobūdis, iš jų: 40 % turi somatinius sutrikimus, 30% - judėjimo, 14% - regos (Valentinavičius, 2012). Iš esmės nėra aišku, koks negalių tipas yra dominuojantis, nes nėra privaloma to atskleisti aukštosiose mokyklose. Užsienvyje didelę dalį neigaliųjų studentų sudaro turintys mokymosi negalias (disgrafija, disleksija) (Madriaga, 2007), o šie sutrikimai Lietuvoje minimi tik bendrojo lavinimo kontekste (LR Švietimo ir mokslo ministro įsakymas, 2010), tačiau aukštajame moksle nebefigūruoja.

⁵ Iki 2005 metų daugelyje tyrimų Lietuvoje buvo naudojama „invalido“ savoka. Neigaliųjų socialinės integracijos įstatymas buvo papildytas 2005 metais ir „invalido“ savoka pakeista į „neigaliuoju“, kuri vartojama ir šioje disertacijoje.

Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose daugėja neigaliųjų studentų, tačiau trūksta jų aktyvumo pasireiškimo (Daugėla, 2004). Ruškus ir kt. (2007) pažymi kad neigaliujei neretai atsiduria socialinėje atskirtyje dėl to, kad neturi socialiniai vertingų vaidmenų. Pavyzdžiu, anot minėtųjų tyréjų, būti studentu, visų pirma, reiškia aktyviai mokytis, plėsti savo kompetencijas, dalyvauti visuomeniniame gyvenime, ruoštis būti kompetentingu, visuomenėje vertinamos profesijos atstovu, kuriančiu nacionalinį produktą ir prisidedančiu prie visuomenės gerovės. Ruškus ir kiti daro išvadą, kad įgalintas, t.y. aktyvus ir iniciatyvus, neigalus studentas turi piliečiui būtinės savybes ir tampa resursu aukštajai mokyklai – žmogumi, kuris gali prisiimti įspareigojimus, gali atsakingai dalyvauti institucijų sprendimų priėmimine. Neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas sprendimų priėmimo procesuose arba tiesiog akademiniės bendruomenės veiklose, iki šiol yra retai pasitaikanti praktika. Pastebėta tendencija ir neigaliųjų asmenų judėjime – sėkminga neigaliųjų lyderių veikla ir neigaliųjų mobilizavimas, veda prie socialinių pokyčių (Foster-Fishman, Jimenez, Valenti, Kelley, 2007), o aktyvus neigaliųjų dalyvavimas suvaidino kritinę vaidmenį, propaguojant deinstitucionalizaciją ir bendruomeniškumą post-komunistinėje Centrinėje ir Rytų Europoje (Holland, 2008). Užtai atsiranda poreikis analizuoti tų nedaug aktyviai veikiančių neigaliųjų studentų patirtis.

Šis darbas susijęs su kritine teorija, dažniausiai siejama su šiuolaikinės industrinės visuomenės neomarksistine Frankfurto kritikos teorijos mokykla (Ritzer, 1996). Teorijos atstovų dėmesio objektas – žmogaus veiksmais ir kaip jis paveikia didesnes socialines struktūras. Kritinė teorija domisi dominavimo, salygoto visuomenės bei kultūros struktūrų tema bei neigia įsitikinimą, kad jis yra natūralus ir neišvengiamas. Kritinis tyrimas niekuomet nepasitenkina vien tik žinojimo kūrimu – tame svarbi individų emancipacija, kritinis mąstymas, kuris padidintų individų sąmoningumą ir lydėtų į socialinį judėjimą (Horkheimer, 1982). Šiame darbe per neigaliųjų patyrimus bandoma atskleisti įgaliųjų dominavimą, nes žiūrima, kaip neigaliujei – dominuojamieji, funkcionuoja aukštajame moksle, kuris veikia pagal įgaliųjų – dominuojamujų poreikius. Įgalieji tol priims aukštojo mokslo realybę kaip normalią ir savaimė suprantamą, kol nebus pažadinamas jų sąmoningumas neigaliųjų asmenų dalyvavimo poreikių atžvilgiu. Tačiau tam, kad būtų žadinamas įgaliųjų sąmoningumas, svarbus neigaliųjų vaidmuo ir kalbėjimas apie savo patirtis, pokyčių siekimas, kuris galimas tik

su augančiu pačių neigaliųjų kritiniu mąstymu ir emancipacija. Disertacinis tyrimas turi emancipacino ir įtraukiančio tyrimo bruožų (Kitchin, 2000; Barnes, 2003): atliekant empirinį tyrimą buvo konsultuojamas su tiriamaisiais, o baigus darbą – sulauktas grįžtamasis ryšys apie duomenų tikroviškumą.

Socialinis dalyvavimas apibrėžiamas kaip asmens aktyvumas atviroje bendruomenėje, kur pasitelkiant neigaliojo vidinius ir išorinius resursus dalyvavimas nėra savitikslis, o susijęs su realių problemų sprendimu (Ebersold, 2007). Šiuo atveju – tai neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas aukštosiose mokyklose, siekiant pagerinti studijų sąlygas. Ebersoldas išskiria dvi socialinio dalyvavimo plėtotės kryptis: kurti ryšius siekiant didesnės kooperacijos bei įgaliinti asmenį siekiant jo įsitraukimo į visuomenės gyvenimą (kuomet neigalusis pripažįstamas kaip lygiavertis partneris sprendžiant problemas). Socialinio dalyvavimo realizavimas reiškia, kad nuo šiol nebe neigalieji derinami prie visuomenės, o visuomenė (ir institucijos, ir specialistai, ir kt.) keičiasi pagal jos narių poreikius. Freire (2000) terminais tariant, visuomenė pradeda derintis prie neigaliųjų, nes jie tampa asmenimis, kurie yra kritiskai mąstantys ir suvokiantys save kaip subjektus, gebančius keisti socialinę tikrovę, atsisakę „tylėjimo“ kultūros. Ruškus ir Mažeikis (2007) plėtodami socialinio dalyvavimo paradigmą Lietuvos kontekste, apibendrina, jog taip dalyvaujant neigalumas matomas kaip individuacijos, savikūratos, į žmogų orientuotų socialinių santykių prielaida.

A. Giddenso struktūracijos teorija (Giddens, 1984) pasitelkiama analizuoti neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimą Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose. Aukštosioms mokykloms, iki tol, kol jose pradėjo studijuoti neigalūs asmenys, funkcionavo pagal igaliuju poreikius ir tai buvo nusistovėjusi kasdienė studijų rutina. Neigaliuiems pradėjus studijas, iškyla daug situacijų, kurios apriboja jų lygiavertį dalyvavimą. Neigalieji studentai, siekdami studijų salygų gerinimo, igyvendina savo veiksnumą ir taip pradedamas keisti studijų organizavimo procesas. Šiame darbe neigalieji atskleidžia kaip sąmoningai save suvokiantys ir turintys veiksmo motyvaciją, galintys daryti socialinio pasaulio pakeitimų. Toks požiūris skiriasi nuo visuomenėje dominuojančio neigalumo diskurso, kuriame vyrauja netekties (Watermeyer, 2009), pasyvios priklausomybės (Bochel ir kt., 2005; Barnes ir Mercer, 2010), gebėjimų trūkumo (Camilleri, 1999), sužeistų, nusižeminusiu, išsigimusiu (Hughes, 2009), tragedijos (Kuppers, 2004) įvaizdžiai. Toks tyrimas, kuriame neigalieji atskleidžia kaip

kompetetingi, priimantys atsakomybę ir sprendimus, prisideda prie teigiamo neigaliųjų įvaizdžio formavimo.

Tyrimuose apie įvairovę aukštajame moksle vyrauja lyties, etniškumo, rasės kategorijos, o negalios tematika tarp šių kategorijų patenka rečiau (Rizvi ir Lingard, 1996). Kodėl negalios tematika yra mažiau nagrinėjama aukštojo mokslo kontekste gali būti paaiškinama keliomis priežastimis: trūksta neigaliųjų studentų, kaip mobilizuotos grupės judėjimo ir lobizmo (Shakespeare, 1993), didesnis dėmesys skiriamas neigaliųjų pradinio ir vidurinio išsilavinimo situacijai aptarti, nes neigalieji dažnai išvis nepasiekia aukštojo mokslo pakopos (Rioux, 2007). Dėmesio skyrimas neigaliųjų pradiniam ir viduriniams išsilavinimui atispindi ir Pasaulinėje ataskaitoje apie negalią (2011). Neigaliųjų studentų problemomis aukštajame moksle tyrėjai pradėjo domėtis apie 1980 metus (OECD, 2003), kai atsirado antidiskriminacinė politika ir pirmieji neigaliųjų lygias galimybes užtikrinantys įstatymai (Ruškus ir kt., 2007). Iki šiol buvo atliekami dažniau individualūs mokslo darbai, analizuojantys tik tam tikrus neigaliųjų studijų aspektus (Hurst, 1998). Neigalieji yra skirtini ir heterogeniški, nors stereotipiniai neigalumo įvaizdžiai pabrėžia judančius vežimėlius ir kelias kitas „klasikines“ grupes kaip aklieji arba kurtieji (Foster-Fishman ir kt., 2007). Tokiu būdu tyrimuose skiriamas didesnis dėmesys matomas negalias turintiems, o tie, kurie turi nematomus somatininius ar psichinius sutrikimus atsiduria antrame plane (Boyd, 2012). Lietuvoje trūksta tyrimų apie neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimo ir įgalinimo patirtis. Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose daugėja neigaliųjų studentų, tačiau sąlygos, kokiomis jie studijuoja nesikeičia taip greitai. Disertacijos **mokslinę tyrimo problemą** sudaro esminis klausimas: kaip patys neigalieji studentai siekia atsižvelgimo į jų specialiuosius poreikius ir studijų sąlygų gerinimo aukštosiose mokyklose Lietuvoje.

Tyrimo objektas – neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas aukštosiose mokyklose.

Tyrimo tikslas – sukurti grindžiamąjį teoriją apie neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimą Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose.

Tyrimo klausimai

- Kaip neigalieji studentai įgyvendina veiksnumą, dalyvaudami studijų procese aukštosiose mokyklose?
- Kaip vyksta studijų salygų kūrimas institucijoje, sąveikaujant neigaliajam ir akademiniės bendruomenės nariams?
- Kaip keičiasi neigaliųjų studentų tapatumas dalyvaujant aukštojoje mokykloje?

Tyrimo uždaviniai

- Aptarti teorinius negalios sampratos modelius, viešuosius neigalumo diskursus teorinių negalios sampratos modelių požūriu bei neigaliųjų tapatumo formavimosi ypatumus.
- Aptarti aukštojo mokslo atvirumo vystymosi tendencijų teorinį pamatai ir praktinius standartus, kuriuos turi įgyvendinti institucija, norėdama garantuoti neigaliųjų studentų įtrauktį.
- Pristatyti neigaliųjų aukštajame moksle Lietuvoje situacijos analizę pagal šiuos aspektus: aptariant specialiųjų mokymosi poreikių egzistavimą bei tenkinimo galimybes, neigaliųjų apskaitos problemas bei teisinio reglamentavimo klausimus.
- Išnagrinėti, kaip neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas aukštojoje mokykloje gali būti analizuojamas per A. Giddenso struktūracijos teorijos prizmę.
- Pagrįsti ir paaikiškinti Grindžiamosios teorijos apie neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimą Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose parametrus, remiantis empiriniu tyrimu.

Tyrimo metodai

Aukštojo mokslo prieinamumo tematika tiriamą iš įvairių perspektyvų, tačiau, nepaisant plataus tyrimų diapazono, neigaliųjų studentų nuomonė sunkiai arba retai girdima (Fuller, Bradley ir Healey, 2004), o daugelis žinių apie neigaliuosius visuomenėje yra ne jų pačių, o visuomenės nuomonė apie juos (Linton, 1998; Kitchin, 2000; Sunderland, Catalano ir Kendall, 2009; Watermeyer, 2009). Norint užfiksuoti neigaliųjų studentų patirčių autentiškumą ir suvokti jų dalyvavimo aukštajame moksle

procesą, Grindžiamoji teorija, sukurta B. Glaserio ir A. Strausso, buvo pasirinkta kaip kokybinio tyrimo metodologija. Pirmiausia, šia teorija rekomenduojama remtis, kuomet reikia generuoti teorinį modelį tokioje srityje, kuri mažai tyrinėta. Antra, Grindžiamajoje teorijoje pabrėžiama konceptų, generuojamų konkretiomi metodologinėmis procedūromis, kuo daugiau remiantis subjektyviomis informantų patirtimis ir jų naudojama kalba, kūrimo svarba. Galiausiai, šios teorijos tikslas yra ne patikrinti hipotezes, o atrasti ir generuoti naujas hipotezes ar paaiškinimus apie stebimą fenomeną, kurie pagrįsti subjektyviomis informantų patirtimis. Šiame darbe buvo daugiausia remtasi Strauss ir Corbin (1990) plėtojamu Grindžiamosios teorijos variantu.

Atliekant dissertacijos tyrimą buvo naudojami šie metodai: mokslinės literatūros analizė, pusiau struktūruotas interviu, Grindžiamosios teorijos konstravimo etapai – atviras, ašinis, atrankinis kodavimai.

Naujumas

Lietuvoje tyrėjų dėmesio objektu neigalieji studentai tapo daugiau nei prieš dešimtmétį. Neigaliųjų studijos aukštojoje mokykloje tyrinėtos labai mažai, palyginus su tuo, kiek analizuota šalies bendrojo lavinimo situacija ar negalios klausimai apskritai (Ruškus ir kt., 2007). Darbe nagrinėjami neigaliųjų tapatumo konstravimo ypatumai, priklausomai nuo egzistuojančių negalios modelių ir viešujų diskursų. Aprašytas aukštojo mokslo atvirumas neigaliuiems – lygių galimybų užtikrinimas teoriniame bei praktiniame lygmenyje, aukštostos mokyklos atvirumo sąlygos ir standartai. Atlikta neigaliųjų Lietuvos aukštajame moksle situacijos analizė, apžvelgiant paramos teikimą, neigaliųjų apskaitą bei teisinį reglamentavimą. Neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas analizuojamas per A. Giddenso struktūracijos teorijos prizmę.

Grindžiamoji teorija apie neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimą Lietuvos aukštose mokyklose sukuriama pirmą kartą. Ši teorija leidžia pažvelgti į neigaliuosius iš naujos perspektivos: pabrėžiama paties individu vaidmens svarba igyvendinant veiksnumą ir kaip po to keičiasi aukštųjų mokyklų socialinės praktikos. Neigalieji matomi kaip aktyvūs studijų proceso dalyviai, galintys daryti įtaką studijų sąlygų gerinimui. Taip pat tyime dalyvauja skirtingas negalias (judėjimo, regos, klausos, somatinę, psichinę) turintys studentai. Disertacinis darbas prisideda prie reikalingo tolesnio kryptingo neigaliųjų aukštojo mokslo srityje tyrinėjimo Lietuvoje: atskleidžiamos asmeninės

neigaliųjų studentų studijų patirtys, jų įgalinimo, dalyvavimo, atstovavimo sau, negalios atskleidimo procesai.

Ivairovės tematika aukštajame moksle buvo tiriamą daugiausia dėmesio skiriant lyties, rasės, etniškumo kategorijoms, o negalios tematika tarp šių kategorijų patenka rečiau (Rizvi ir Lingard, 1996). Didelę dalį sociologinių tyrimų apie švietimą koncentravosi į nelygybės pristatymą ir analizę, bet ne į būdus, kaip būtų galima ją sumažinti ar panaikinti (Lynch, 2000). Šiame darbe pagrindinis dėmesys yra skiriamas negalios kategorijai, o darbo gale pateikiamas rekomendacijos neigaliuiems studentams, švietimo politikams, aukštuojų mokyklų personalui, tyrėjams, siekiant didinti aukštojo mokslo prieinamumą neigaliuiems.

Darbo gale pateikiami informantų atsiliepimai apie empirinio tyrimo rezultatus: ar gautieji tyrimo rezultatai atspindi tikruosius jų patyrimus ir ką jiems tai reiškia. Tokia tiriamųjų įtraukimo technika kyla iš emancipaciinių ir įtraukiančių tyrimų ideologijos (Kitchin, 2000; Barnes, 2001; 2003). Šiuo įtraukimu tyrėja siekė būti atskaitinga savo tiriamiuems bei išgirsti jų grįztamajį ryšį, kad būtų užtikrinama, jog žinios apie neigaliuosius kuriamos ne tik iš įgaliųjų perspektyvos.

Disertacijos struktūra

Disertaciją sudaro įvadas, teorinė, metodologinė, empirinė dalys, diskusija, tyrimo ribotumai, išvados, rekomendacijos, literatūros sąrašas ir priedas.

Pirmosios dvi disertacijos dalys yra teorinės. Pirmoji dalis „Neigalieji studentai aukštajame moksle“ sudaryta iš trijų skyrių. Pirmausia, pristatoma sociologinė neigalumo analizė – negalios sampratos modeliai ir diskursai bei po to sukuriamais tapatumo formavimo rėmais. Antras skyrius skirtas aptarti aukštojo mokslo atvirumą neigaliuiems – lygių galimybų užtikrimimo tendencijas teoriniame lygmenyje bei praktines išraiškas; aukštosios mokyklos atvirumo neigaliuiems sąlygas ir standartus. Trečiame skyriuje aptariama Lietuvos neigaliųjų aukštajame moksle situacijos analizė, išskiriant paramos teikimą aukštosiose mokyklose, neigaliųjų apskaitos ribotumus bei teisinį reglamentavimą. Antroje teorinėje dalyje pristatoma A. Giddenso struktūracijos teorija, per kurios prizmę teoriniame lygmenyje analizuojamas neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas.

Trečia dalis – metodologija, susidedanti iš penkių pagrindinių poskyrių. Pirmiausia, pristatoma grindžiamoji teorija kaip pasirinkta kokybinio tyrimo strategija ir tyrėjo vaidmuo. Toliau pristatomi tyrimo metodai: interviu, duomenų analizės sisteminės procedūros, tyrimo dalyvių atranka ir sociodemografinės charakteristikos, tyrimo etika bei tyrėjos refleksija.

Ketvirta dalis – empirinė, susidedanti iš trijų pagrindinių skyrių, padiktuotų Grindžiamosios teorijos logikos. Pirmajame atviro kodavimo skyriuje pateikiamas penkios skirtingą negalią turinčių studentų istorijos. Antrajame ašinio kodavimo skyriuje pristatomi penki pagrindiniai tyrimo fenomenai: Akistata aukštojoje mokykloje: „*Iš pradžiu buvo sunku studijuoti*“, Dalyvavimo kryptys: „*Visur manęs pilna*“, Kintantis tapatumas: „*Esu eilinis studentas*“, Požiūrio svarba: „*Žmonių mastymas svarbiau nei specialiosios priemonės*“ bei Tęstinumo būtinybė: „*Ilgas universiteto kelias iki iutraukties*“. Trečiąjame – atrankinio kodavimo etape – pristatoma teorija apie neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimą Lietuvos aukštosiose mokyklose „*Pradžią turi kurti pats*“.

Diskusijos dalyje tyrimo rezultatai analizuojami, remiantis A. Giddenso struktūracijos teorija, negalios modeliais, kitaip šios srities tyrimais. Kaip atskira dalis aptariami tyrimo ribotumai. Disertacnio darbo gale pateikiamas suformuluotos išvados bei rekomendacijos neigaliems studentams, švietimo politikams, aukštuju mokyklų personalui, tyrėjams/mokslininkams. Galiausiai, pateikiamas literatūros sąrašas ir priedas – informantų atsiliepimai apie empirinio tyrimo rezultatus.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON THE TOPIC OF THE DISSERTATION

Ruolytė, R. (2011). Neigalieji aukštajame moksle: Lietuvoje atliktų tyrimų apžvalga emancipacinių ir įtraukiančių tyrimų požiūriu. *Specialusis ugdymas*, 2(25), 35-45. ISSN 1392-5369.

Ruolytė-Verschoore, R., Ruškus, J. (2012). „Pradžią turi kurti pats“: neigaliųjų studentų dalyvavimas aukštosiose mokyklose Lietuvoje. *Kultūra ir visuomenė*, 3(2). ISSN 2029-4573.

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**THE PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED STUDENTS IN
LITHUANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

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