ABSTRACT

ADOLESCENCE, GENDER AND SEXUALITIES

Kristina Hackmann, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Women and Gender, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany

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Adolescence is a biographical phase, in which corporeality and sexuality become the central issues. At the same time social norms and social definitions of womanhood have an enormous impact on girls. But how do adolescent girls discuss this issues in every-day-life situations, on which social ideas of gender, femininity, masculinity, homo- and heterosexuality do girls refer to? Which ideas and images do they develop themselves? And how can these issues be analysed?

In my paper I'll present the results of my dissertation thesis (2002) in which I'm trying to answer these questions.

The empirical data are video recordings I took in a girls group (age 11-12) I instructed during the school term 1997/98. During this term the girls produced their own video film called 'Girl Power', based on script they had collectively devised. The video recordings consist of the 35-minute-film as well as observation clips of the actual interaction and discussions between the girls during the video making process.

The story of the video film 'Girl Power' is about two quarreling girl gangs: the 'Black Outs' and the 'Modern Girls'. Especially in the first part of the film, the Black Outs represent what is commonly called 'masculine' behaviour, the 'Modern Girls' reflect what is commonly called 'female' bahavior. During a concert of the Back Street Boys one of the Modern Girls is being kidnapped and the Black Outs offer their help. The two gangs join efforts and sucessfully free the kidnapped girl from a mysterious black man. In the end they become friends.

I'll present how this data can be analysed with an interdisciplinary proceeding based on an ethnomethodological view of the construction of social reality and on the method of conversation analysis combined with the search for culturally determined subtexts.

I'll also present some exemplary readings referring to the questions above and some refelctions on practical pedagogical work with girls.