











OLPOSDRU



Camelia Corina BURGHELE

Asumarea identității culturale în comunitățile românești din Maramureșul ucrainian (Transcarpatia - Ucraina)

conservare și / sau dinamică socio-culturală în context multietnic



Editura Muzeului Național al Literaturii Române













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Lucrare realizată în cadrul proiectului "Valorificarea identităților culturale în procesele globale", cofinanțat din Fondul Social European prin Programul Operațional Sectorial Dezvoltarea Resurselor Umane 2007 – 2013, contractul de finanțare nr. POSDRU/89/1.5/S/59758.

Titlurile și drepturile de proprietate intelectuală și industrială asupra rezultatelor obținute în cadrul stagiului de cercetare postdoctorală aparțin Academiei Române.

Punctele de vedere exprimate în lucrare aparțin autorului și nu angajează Comisia Europeană și Academia Română, beneficiara proiectului.

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ISBN 978-973-167-130-7 Depozit legal: Trim. II 2013

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Titlul proiectului: "Valorificarea identităților culturale în procesele globale"

Contract: POSDRU/89/1.5/S/59758 Beneficiar: ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

Parteneri în proiect: (I) UNIVERSITATEA POLITEHNICA București, Facultatea de Mecanică și

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Summari

The construction, outline and assumption of the cultural identity have become, in the context of globalisation and cultural uniformity specific to the last decades, one of the main subjects to anthopological research. Emergency ethnology develops the traditional community study in a pace imposed be processes of cultural assimilation or irreversible transformations of daily life and cultural customs.

In this context, we considered it would be of interest to initiate a, anthopological research project of an area ouside the country but inhabited by romanians: the villages on the right Tisa bank, in the current Ukraine, but which belong to the historic county of Maramures and constitute a Romanian outpost, outside the Romanian administrative borders.

The project has been proposed by the Romanian Academy within the framework of the Postdoctoral School to include it in a more ample initiative under the title "Putting value to cultural identities within global processes".

This study is very important to argument the existance of a complex culture which can be called the "Carpathian culture", as well as for guarding the cultural awareness of the trans-carpathian Romanians. Also, it is necessary to systematically research the area as it has simply not been researched to this moment.

In the context of globalisation the study of minorities has become a welcome solution to meet the need of cultural-historical identity of these groups which find themselves threatened by the pressure brought by cultural uniformity with identity disolution as an effect.

As concrete perspective, we propose a framework structured over two levels, employing the instruments provided by cultural anthropology:

- Romanian culture part of the Carpathian culture
- Romanian culture cultural expansion entity

The "Carpathian culture" issue (maybe even that of "carpathianism") was followed as a recurring theme in anthropology during the last years, as a result to deep Europe-oriented and global-oriented processes of culture and economy. Beyond the approaches offered by the theoretical framework of globalisation, minority anthropology explains a series of social-cultural phenomena – most of which are present in the Romanian villages of Ukraine – by acting out the concept of cultural and national identity and through the dynamics between the majority and the minirity group – followed by cultural policies and heritage guarding for each of the parts.

In this context. Carpathian culture becomes a paradigm which defines the cultural european environment. The matrix of customs and traditions (guarded either "in situ" or in the cultural memory of the group) in the villages on the right bank of Tisa are brought together into a solid argument for belonging to a specific mountain culture under the pressure of Ukraine, Russia and Hungary. This culture is in unity with that of the European Cartpathians but even more, it is in perfect sync with the culture built upon the Romanian Carpathians.

Recognition of the identity of these Romanians through guarding certain traditions and customs makes possible not only the "rediscovery of the archetype" needed by the Transarpathian Romanians to guard their unity and cultural continuity but also the development of a complex anthropological research of the area, in order to theoretically and practically argument Carpathian culture.

The originality of the project also consists of the modern methods to be employed, of the anthropological perspectives imposed and of linking literature to the newest research principles: inter-culturality, multi-cultural environment, identity vs alterity, identity mechanisms, globalisation;

We do consider that the results to this research will have an echo within the Romanian trans-carpathian communities and will support their effort to guard Romanian traditions.

This paper presents a few features of the not so quiet Maramures history on the north of Tisa. We have to keep in mind that, practically, the "historical Maramures" expression refers to a geographical space of which only a third belongs to the Romanian state as the other two thirds belong to

Ukraine: the Romanian Maramures covers 3 300 square kilometers of the 10 500 total of the whole Maramures.

The main issue of this ancient romanian land has been the borders; the last two centuries have been characterised by a continuous battle for it to become united with Romania.

Our field studies – mostly undergone to ethnographically survey the area – performed within the last years across Tisa have reavealed the decision of the Romanians over there to guard their ethnical and cultural identity, in spite of many opposing factors. The romanian there – even in the context of both a European and western globalization bu also a Ukrainean and Russian one – always relate themselves to their Romanian origin. They feel Romanians and they try to guard this image through all the means they have at hand: visits to their Romanian Maramures brothers, cultural exchange (as permitted), schools in Romanian language, reconstruction of orthodox or catholic churches, collecting ols objects, specific to the romanian traditional village and even opening small museums where this possibility exists, printing romanian papers, and, more important then all, the will to teach Romanian (which they speak daily within the family) to their children.

The Romanian villages of Trans-Carpathia are radically different from the rest of the (Ukrainian, Slovak, Hungarian) villages because of the villagers' wellbeing. This is a vital argument in outlining an identity profile for the Romanians, obtained by comparison to the other ethnicities within the same geographical area and social status. Based onto this remark we are looking to accomplish a collective study on dynamic identity/alterity mechanisms: how do Romanians perceive themselves concerning their social and material status and how the other ethnicities perceive them – of which the majority of Ukrainians are the most important, and weather this gives them a special status.

Socially and culturally, Romanians in Trans-Carpathia build a well-defined identity within the ever tougher Ukrainian and/or Russian globalization – a Slavic one – while focusing onto some historical cultural landmarks.

A very important identity element is found within the title Romanians across Tisa use for themselves: though they were never a part of the "Great Romania", the Romanians here proudly call themselves "Little Romania".

The mechanisms of identity construction for the Romanian communities on the right Tisa (Ukraine) villages as related to the local Ukrainian majority have been under our attention the last years. The Transcarpathian Maramures Romanians topic required several field trips – finalized with ethnological observations onto the cultural environment which exists there (clearly reflected into obvious language modifications or ancient customs and spiritual models but also into guarding the Romanian identity patterns – common to those of the Romanians on the other Tisa bank, the Romanian Maramures)

In the context of globalization and Europeanization, or more precisely in the context of forming the national and ethnical state union, conventionally called The European Union, certain necessary distinctions are made between the terms *boundary* and *frontier*. The boundary is a paradoxical concept: it separates and unifies at the same time, leading towards a high degree of permeability of the limits.

One of the most important elements in outlining a identity related attitude is *territoriality*.

Minority anthropology speaks of *border - identity* as if it were a special kind of identity built once the enclave is bound to the motherland, the two being only separated by a administrative border: this being the case of the Transcarpathia Romanians.

Tisa is seen as a concrete, tangible border which separates the two macro-political territories: Romania on the left and Ukraine on the right side of Tisa. On the other side, Romanians here see the villages as if they belonged to a territorial unity which cannot be destroyed – that of the historical Maramures. Their belonging to a common space which is not only physical and geographical but also cultural and ethnical is very obvious: the Romanians on the right hand bank of Tisa are perfectly aware of their Romanian heritage, which mainly manifests on a linguistic level

but also on a common tradition level with the Romanians on the left hand bank of Tisa.

There has been research developed on several levels on the field study within the right Tisa bank (Transcarpathian Ukraine) in order to define group identity and *border identity:* a language level (the extent to which Romanian is used), a religious level (guarding the inherited religion or adhesion to neo-Protestantism), an economic level (attitude towards labor and living conditions), a mythical-magical-ritual level (guarding certain magical practices), social networking (especially marriages) and everyday life.

While surrounded by strong Ukrainian communities representing majority, Romanian villages in the Ukraine Trans-Carpatia have activated along history some very well defined mechanisms to guard their cultural identity which have to be activated today as well.

Historically speaking, the Ukraine Maramures villages have been recorded in the XIV century and are an exceptional example of ethnical and cultural survival, if we consider the fact that severals empires and administration have walked upon their territory: the Hungarian Kingdom, The Transilvania Principate, The Austrian Empire, The Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, Czechoslovakia and the USSR.

For starting a sistematic field research in the Ukraine Maramures, our option for an athropology which would put to value the ethnical folkloric heritage (maybe under the shape of a village album) was combined with certain general minority anthropology approaches.

While starting from bibliographic data but also from information taken on the field, we tried to outline the largest Romanian communities, as a basis for a well founded minority anthropology.

Aware of the fact that they have traditions, customs, culture, popular clothing, churches, buildings and most importantly a common language with the Romanian Maramures, the Romanians in Trans – Carpathia developed a very solid national conscience. We are impressed by the "Little Romania" title that they use as related to "Great Romania".

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Editura Muzeului Național al Literaturii Române CNCS PN - II - ACRED - ED - 2012 - 0374

Coperta colecției: AULA MAGNA

Machetare, tehnoredactare și prezentare grafică: Victor PREDA, Nicolae LOGIN Logistică editorială și diseminare: Ovidiu SÎRBU, Radu AMAN

Traducerea sumarului și sintezei, corectură și bun de tipar asigurate de autor

ISBN 978-973-167-130-7

Apărut trim. II 2013