

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRADITIONS IN ROMANIAN CELEBRATIONS

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Abstract: Romania is rich in tradition and history and both are a part in every country's celebrations. For this article, it was used the meta-analytical method and it is based on the Romania's traditional celebrations and how they are affecting the society. Celebrations are a manifestation of the traditional creation of a society who have the purpose to support the country's culture from generation to generation. The past of Romania is rich in history and celebrations are the ones who help people to tell the others about its significance. These celebrations are sacred or profane, but indifferent how they are, they are representing an important part of the Romania's culture. However, a celebration in Romania is not celebrated if it's not structured in a series of rituals. A celebration without rituals does not exist.

Celebrations, through their culture, are responsible in transporting every person who participated in their rituals to a new world that it is different from their present. As time goes by, Romania is becoming more and are more affected by the appearance of new cultures who are bringing new cultural elements and are creating new celebrations in our country. However, this effect is not affecting entire the Romanian traditions.

Keywords: celebrations, anthropology, Romania, tradition, culture

1. Introduction

Celebrations are representing a very important part of our culture. Romania has developed its culture through history and many of the country's celebrations are meant to promote Romanian's past. A traditional celebration has religious values. Romania has a past rich in history who is, every year, reborn in festive rituals or celebrations. Important celebrations like Christmas, Easter or even Saint Mary are representing not only a religiously way to regain the belief in the religion, but also to promote different aspects of nations cultural elements

(Marian, 1994; Pamfile, 1997). Celebrations are representing more and more not just a structures of rituals, but instead, they have an important significance about the consequences that they have over the people's reactions. There are some important celebrations in Romania starting from: Christmas, Easter, Saint Mary or if we talk about the civile celebrations, we can have some example like: National Day, 24 January-Little Union, Valentines Day, and others. Another interesting fact is that the civile celebrations are not just some rituals who are about our country, some of them are borrowed from another countries and cultures. But every celebrations have a major symbolism. Without a symbolism, a celebration would not be remind as an important act of the past. Eliade (1994) said that "symbolism give a new value to an object or an action, without damaging the cultures values. If the symbolism is applied on an object or an action, the cultures own values will be more open". The symbols appear before a ritual that is realized and, they represent the first part of the celebration that is coming; symbols are announcing the celebrations, such as: before Christmas, in every city, it will appear Christmas symbols, carols, and other thing. Symbols are introducing people in the celebrations. A celebration is not just a reason to joy, it is a recreation of the past.

2. Romanian Traditions

Traditions in our present are representing just a part of a celebration because of the new wave of the cultural elements that Romania has known in the last years (Nicolau, 1998; Ghinoiu, 2003; Ghinoiu, 2008). Many and many of new cultural elements are affecting the Romanian traditions, leading to a modeling the real form in a new and modern way. People in our days, don't celebrate the Romanians celebration as their ancestors.

Mircea Eliade (1994) said in his book "Images and symbols" that "the noble part of the conscience of a modern man is less spiritual than we believe. A short analyse will discover in this noble and high sphere of conscience some reminiscence and more prejudices of religion, morality, sociality, esthetics, etc) and some preconceived ideas about the meaning of the life over the reality." according to Eliade, the modern man is participating in a celebrations rituals and, he is celebrating the meaning of the festive day, but not just for him, but also for the past. If a person is participating in the traiditional rituals, he respects his cultures. Tradition is the one who makes a culture be alive for long-term. A culture without tradition will not survive over the abundance of the new information from different cultures.

One of the reason that the tradition is affected is by the people who are travelling and many of them are working in another country. So, when they come back in Romania, they are bringing with them a stock of knowledge given by the adopted culture which where they live. This is resulting that our Romanian tradition is influencing by the new cultures. But this is not happening in all the country; in some regions from Romania, the tradition is kept alive through the participation of many citizen who are given from generation to generation the meaning of the information about the importance of keeping the celebrations as how they were in the past. Some counties like Maramureş, Bucovina and others are known for their traditions; every year many turists are going there to see the beauty in the Romanian celebrations. Traditions are not just a common thing there, they are repressing in fact, the greatness of the power in keeping all the rituals the same. Past in not forgotten if the present will celebrate it. Also, the Romanians traditions have a future only if the present will know and appreciate the past.

Traditions are managed to survive the battle of the modern time, and to keep their influences over the celebrations (Jula & Mănăstireanu, 1968). The festive rituals starts from the moment when people are announcing the begining of the celebrations. Romania's celebrations have changed a lot since the past, but they managed to keep their sacred or profane symbolism, in function of their capacity to adapt to modern society. In the last time, Romania adopted some new cultural elements from others societies because of the large number of people who are going to work outside the country. In the moment when they decide to go back to the country, they are entering in Romania with a stock of knowledge borrowed from their adopted country and they are trying to impose them to their birth nation. From this, it results that Romanian traditions are the ones who are put in danger by the people's behaviour about their wish to change Romanians tradition (*Rusu-Pasaran, 2005; Hedesan, 2008; Rusu Pasarin, 2009*).

Celebrations like Christmas and Easter were manage to express the joy of the Romanian people regarding their necessity to keep the traditions. In the period of Christmas, most counties of Romania begin to evoke the spirit of Christmas to transform people perception about the real problem that they have- they adopted cultural elements over our traditions. As times pass by, the traditions has become more and more than an important lesson for the country's citizen. Traditions are the ones who consist in persuading the next

generation by the present people and to give to the future what past has given for the present. Traditional celebrations as Christmas and Easter are representing in fact 50/50 percents of sacred and profane in the same time: they manage to have their own Romanian traditions, but also they adopted another from other countries. Traditional celebrations are a part of Romanians cultures. They are in bond directly with the religion. An important celebration for Orthodox Romanians is the Easter where the sacred can be seen in every rituals that people make. The reunion of all christians in the sacred space of the church makes Easter a big celebrations with religious values where the profane is less seen. For every Romanian, it is important to know their country's traditions and that it represents an actual necessity in preserving them in the present. In celebrating Easter, Romanians becomes participants to the spirituals rituals to recreate the religious history of their nation. The return to their traditional values makes them closer to their ancestors; this ritual give them the opportunity to reunite with their family in order to celebrate the resurrection of the Jesus Christ. Here, the traditions are the ones who stops all the country for a few days and transform their daily routine in a special days. When a traditional celebration is coming, media is promoting especially the Romanians traditions and urges the people to follow the tradition and to be proud by their culture. If in Easter, the religious rituals are the most important, we can't say the same thing about the ones who are happened on Christmas. Here, because of the media applied to our country new rituals, the special meaning sometimes it is forgotten. The meaning of the Christmas is the birth of the Jesus Christ, but because of the new adaptation from other cultures and by the media, people are now celebrated more the idea of Santa Claus. Christmas is the celebration when people are giving presents and are receiving them. Even the true meaning is almost lost, Christmas is more a time when people are reunited with their family. Romanians traditions on Christmas are more about carols and making the tree, but the true traditions can be found at villages where people are about the ancestors't rituals.

Romanians are preparing to enter in the big day following different religious rituals, but also social and moral ones. Housewives are cooking traditional food for Easter; they were taught since when they were young about the importance of eating traditional good in the celebrations days. Thus, Romanians, in the Easter times, are following festive rituals and are participating to all the activities; they are taken some days off from the work. Easter, like Christmas, is the period when a family is reunited. The sacred rituals are happening in the

church. Here, in the church, the tradition is meeting with the religion or we can say that the religion can represent the tradition itself. Participating in the rituals from the church, people are participating in a construction of the past. Following their traditions, Romanians follow their culture. Thus, if the Christmas celebration is just a series of cultural elements of others cultures, it may appear the idea that our traditional celebrations can be affected and it may lose their senses. Christmas is showing through media from the eyes of a multicultural space. However, this is not affecting the people from villages. They are still living in a world almost sacred where the profane is not having the same power as at the cities (*Ticlea & Ticlea, 2013; Wild & Vivas, 2013*).

The celebrations in Romania have a sacred and a profane symbolism, both can be organized in a traditional or modern way. Romania's citizen treats their traditional celebration as they were taught by their parents and grandparents. The history of Romanians cultures must be an essential part of our present in order for the future generation to celebrate them. For Romanians, the feeling of membership to their culture makes them impatient to celebrate different rituals in order for the special day to come.

In Romania, civil celebrations started to become more and more visible, sometimes they have an importance like the traditional ones (Nedelcu, 2015; Dumitru, Motoi & Budică, 2016). The influences of the other cultures above ours is the one who put Romania between sacred and profane, but also between traditional and modern. Celebration like Halloween or Valentines Day have character pagan for our country, but, in last years, they begun to have importance and they are now celebrated in Romania just like other country's celebrations. They were borrowed from the other cultures, especially through television, internet and media in general. These pagan celebrations lead to a country's transformation or to an adaption of Romania to the need of citizen to be like other cultures. Thus, these celebrations are representing more than just a pretext for the citizen to follow them. They are representing for Romanians a need to be in contact with other cultures. But this pretext lead to a recognition of their importance in our country as important celebrations. It is interesting how they become as important as the traditional ones.

Romania from today is strongly battle with the abundances of new celebrations that are entering in its space. Also, if the Romanian are wanting to keep their own traditions and culture, they must take part in all the rituals that a traditional celebrations has and to tell the

others, who are still young, about the meaning of true tradition. A strongly culture is the one who keep its rituals and through that, they are following the traditions (Turner & Turner, 1982; Panea, 1995).

Romanians society is in a continuous change, starting from the manifestation of the citizen in wanting new forms of celebrations who are not applied much on the country's culture and from the need to keep the traditional celebrations as they were in the past. Romania has a stable culture, with a strong idea of nationalism, but it is flexible and open to new ideas and cultures. Thus, our country, in the period of traditional celebrations, begun a center of cultural creations through different rituals. Traditions are well-known in our country as a form of keeping the Romania's culture stable. By the time pass, the traditions are put in danger if the people don't answer to the participation in rituals. Romania is wanting to become closely to new cultures, but in the same time, it is wanting to keeping its own traditions. The Romania's past will not be remember if the tradition will be lost. The importance of the traditions are meant to be preserve and to be given as a present to the following generations.

3. Conclusion

Traditional celebrations from Romania are suffering a transformation because of the influencing of the other cultures; the essentiality can be lost in this case. To support the tradition in Romanian celebrations, people must take part, organized, in all the festive rituals according to the past. Romanian celebrations are constructing by traditions. There are other celebrations important for our nation, but they don't have a point in common with the past. Even if they are adopted, they can't have the values as the traditional celebrations.

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