

Recenzie

LAMPL, Zsuzsanna¹: **Sociology of Hungarians living in Slovakia**

Volume no. 1 – Hungarian and a citizen of Slovakia

The title of the volume gives the reader a feeling of a scientific undertaking of a big camber and we may immediately state that the author does not disappoint us: the reader really holds a fundamental work in his hands. This volume is a determining work of the minority research not only in case of Hungarians living in Slovakia but of those living in the whole Carpathian Basin, too.

In the last two decades several institutes of social sciences achieved serious professional mentions in some regions. On the other hand the works of rough scientific standard were not rare and contained troublingly normative and subjective elements. In some cases they were of emotively motivated approach, leaving out requirements of professionalism and scientific exactness. The presented volume belongs to works fulfilling the most fastidious professional demands, dealing with serious scientific exactness, following the almost Weberian requirements while answering numerous questions of the Hungarian society in Slovakia.

The book is divided to four chapters. From the point of view of a fundamental work of the sociology of Hungarians living in Slovakia, undoubtedly the first chapter is the most determinative one. Its importance is in the fact that the most significant terms are given a united explanation of different investigations in the field of social sciences. The first and most important methodological problem to be solved in each empirical research made among minority Hungarians is the following: who can be regarded as a Hungarian? The book deals with types of Hungarians in details. The term "Hungarian living in Slovakia" does not appear here as an abstract expression but from the viewpoint of research methodology it is a pragmatic and clear-out definition. Already this part gives us some examples on the extremely diverse approach bearing numerous new aspects of analysis on one hand and about the deep knowledge of the international professional literature where theories of the Anglo-Saxon authors and their innovative applications are listed on the other one. Presentation of logic schemes and the tables illustrating applied view systems belong to the most valuable elements of this part.

The second part of this chapter introduces various theories of nations. This subsection containing a lot of good quotations deals with processes regarding minorities primarily based on the theory of a U.S. author, Rogers Brubaker. According to the author of this book he is able to interpret minorities in frames that exceed the traditional essentialistic–constructivistic confrontation.

The part referring to some elements of the Slovak and Hungarian Constitution is of high value as well as the accurate review of the so-called minority minimum of Hungarians living in Slovakia.

¹ Zsuzsanna Lampl: *The Sociology of Hungarians living in Slovakia – Volume no. 1: Hungarian and a citizen of Slovakia*. Fórum Minority Research Institute, Šamorín, 2013. Hungarian and Slovak edition: *A szlovákiai magyarok szociológiája – 1. kötet: Szlovákiai és magyar, Sociológia Maďarov na Slovensku – 1. zväzok: Slovenský a Maďarský*.

Census data presented in the second chapter of the volume are not taken into account as if they were "soft" sociologic indicators containing strict information in an exact range of data. According to the author the official census is a research and data collection based on hypotheses and methodologic suppositions practising sometimes disputable solutions. After answering the questions regarding the citizenship and nationality and presenting a range of historical data we get a really detailed and interesting statistics on language usage. The latter ones statuesquely demonstrate territorial and regional division of Hungarians in Slovakia. Demonstration of detailed charts and the analytic and appreciative presentation of data hold an especially important element called as a "grounding introduction" to the next chapter.

The chapter named "Research Results" is a result review of investigations applying substantial and toned approach in the given topic. Statements of Zsuzsanna Lampl are really instructive, her arguments are worked out and illustrated with a number of data.

The subchapter "Public Ethnonym of Hungarians in Slovakia" sensitively demonstrates a complex self-description of Hungarians living in Slovakia. Besides the self-classification to the Hungarian nation recent research results show the Hungarian identity very emphatically, too. The double identity of "I am both Slovak and Hungarian" is not characteristic, says the author.

Viewpoints determining national identity and the definition of individual identity are made by presenting numerous research results. In this case the choice of school overtops as a determining factor. Educational-cultural relations as determining viewpoints for determining Hungarian identity as well as determining the belonging to the Hungarian nation contain important elements of the subchapter named "Criteria for being Hungarian".

The final chapter called "Annex" is a selection of author's writings. They partially deal with the sociology of Hungarians in Slovakia drafted earlier on one hand but they are enriched by new elements on the other one: the nationality structure of settlements and residential mobilities as well as relations of the national identity. We have achieved the next basic topic of minority research: a radically different perspective of preserving national identity in diaspora and in blocks. An important and rarely investigated viewpoint widens the set of investigated phenomena: by the direct and indirect influence of sub- and disurbanization on assimilation and national identity preservation. At the end of an exceptionally detailed and exciting analysis of residential integration, social structure and motivation of those moving from Bratislava to the surrounding villages and towns the following question is conceived of: what is the role of the increasing Slovak migration in the loss of identity among Hungarians?

Most of the investigations presented in this volume by Zsuzsanna Lampl are connected with the Fórum Minority Research Institute in Šamorín: she has been a determining participant and the manager of numerous empirical sociological research from its beginnings. At the end of the book a detailed bibliography about the Hungarian, Slovak and international professional literature is listed.

To sum it up: the volume fulfills all the expectations at a very high professional level that have arisen among professionals due to its topic and topic structure. Undoubtedly a comprehensive volume, a real fundamental work of the sociology of Hungarians living

in Slovakia has been taken into being by Zsuzsanna Lampl. Furthermore, hopefully it will be followed by the next one...

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