

2/12/24

LIONAKIS 2020

Η αναπαραγωγή των εθνικών αφηγημάτων και η συγκρότηση των ταυτοτήτων στα σχολικά εγχειρίδια ιστορίας διαμέσου της προσέγγισης του "άλλου". Μία ιστορικο-κοινωνιολογική προσέγγιση

The title of the PhD thesis is «The reproduction of national narratives and the construction of identities in history textbooks through the approach of «the other» as an enemy. A historical-sociological approach». This research focuses on understanding the way in which Greek Christian identity is constructed in history textbooks of primary and secondary education in the period 1922-1940. The concept of national identity is multidimensional and multi-factorial. Who can be part of a nation and who cannot is a difficult and thorny question which is answered on the basis of the criteria chosen each time to define identity. However, people do not voluntarily choose their identity. National images-perceptions are rigid, stereotypical and ethnocentric, as they directly relate to the collective identity. The collective evaluation of «us», mostly when contrasted to «the hostile other», must contribute effectively to a sense of «self-identity», dignity and pride in belonging to this group. In this light, national identity is defined through the «significant others», nations or ethnic groups which are considered threatening to the authenticity, uniqueness or even the independence of the nation. Key elements contributing to this direction are culture, language and religion. Their importance lies not only in the level at which they construct and strengthen national identity, but also in the extent to which they differentiate the concept of the «in-group» from the «out-group» and in the way they define the dividing boundaries. This definition is shaped, structured and disseminated by institutions controlled by the state through the educational system, the schools. The Greek educational system, adhering to the three-part scheme established by Zambelios and Paparigopoulos -ancient, middle and modern history- is aimed primarily, to this day, at shaping students' identities through the Greek-Christian synthesis. Its purpose is to perpetuate this form and establish the belief that the Greek nation is the chosen people, since divine providence appears in school textbooks more than once to help it. The main objective of this thesis is to highlight the techniques and rhetorical fallacies through which identities are constructed and perpetuated in the light of the synthesis of the nation and religion. The main research tool is Critical Discourse Analysis and more specifically the discourse-historical approach, as developed by Wodak.