

Theses of PhD dissertation

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**THE IMAGE OF HUNGARIANS AND THE HUNGARIAN PAST IN THE
REFLECTION OF UKRAINIANS**

(1991-2007)

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I. Choice of theme, preceding researches, sources

The investigations on the image of nations in other nations' opinion belong to the scientific field of imagology, which is a quite new field of studies, appeared in the last decades of the past century. Imagology, which is said to be interdisciplinary, has effects on bilateral cultural, political and strategic connections between countries and people as well. Each nation is interested about how the others see them and meanwhile they try to improve the image about themselves. The inquiry about other nations' opinion is not new, because from ancient times we can find descriptions about other cultures, but the research of the nation-image is coeval with the birth of modern nations and the ideology of nationalism.

The study of bilateral or multilateral nation-image is the most important in the case of nations living in close historical and cultural connections, because the procedure of picture-creating about each other develops stereotypes and attitudes toward one another, and often such negative, harming ones, that make its influence felt in every day life. The image of a nation is not permanent; it always changes according to the historical events happening. Every nation has an image in others' reflection and these images are all different from one another: the closer two nations live to each other, the more intensive is the process of making ideas, images and stereotypes about each other.

In the case of studies on the Hungarians' image in the world, there are lots of publications, especially about the reflection of neighboring nations. From the point of view of Hungarian – Ukrainian contacts the geographical propinquity is important and it is also essential that Ukraine now includes Transcarpathia, which was the part of Hungary for centuries. About cultural and historical relationship of the two countries – Hungary and Ukraine – several works and articles were published during the last half century, but the researches on the Ukrainians' reflection of the Hungarian nation and their history are quite rare, although they have very important role in the Hungarian-Ukrainian connections in present and in future as well. That is why I have chosen this topic as a scientific research. The aim of my PhD dissertation is to get to know at least partially the image of Hungarians and their history in the reflection of Ukrainian school textbooks of History and Transcarpathian local historical works.

Ukrainians didn't have an own country for ages and became sovereign only in 1991, till that time the land, inhabited by Ukrainians, was separated and belonged to several empires,

such as Rzecz Pospolita, The Russian Imperia, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, etc. After destruction of Soviet Union besides other nations the Ukrainians proclaimed sovereignty, so it became necessary to modify the whole system and to find a new state ideology that suited to new situation of the national country and to some extent it was nationalism. After so many years of living in the status of minority and striking for language and cultural rights, in the young Ukrainian state all the levels and institutions of government, society, education and culture in few years were transformed to Ukrainian language. In the sake of legalization of contemporary Ukrainian state and its present borders, it was necessary to construct the Ukrainian historical narrative, which is cleaned from old stereotypes of the soviet Marxist historiography so that to create the heroic past of the nation from their point of view. Besides, it is worthy to note that in 1991 newly born Ukraine is not a homogenous country; several nationalities live inboard the country, so sometimes the Ukrainian national interests trespass on their cultural rights. Generations that were socialized by the internationalism and used the Russian language, cannot be changed radically within a short time, but the youth can be. So for the sake of forming and strengthening their Ukrainian national identity-awareness means of education (textbooks), minority and language policy, mass media and even historiography were used.

Geographical and geo-political location of Ukraine and Hungary promoted close relations between the neighboring nations during their historical development. These relations sometimes were friendly, but also appeared to be hostile. The territory of the most intensive cohabitation of Ukrainians and Hungarians is the present Transcarpathia, which region till 1918 was part of Hungary, than after the World War II. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic gained it, and remained a part of the free Ukraine after the events took place in 1991. Since that, the Ukrainian official historiography, mostly the local historiography is trying to prove their „historical” rights to own the territory. So the History textbooks and local historiography are both can be used as very good sources for studying about what kind of image the Ukrainian historians, textbook-writers and dilettante examiners of past events reflect about themselves and others, especially the Hungarians and their history.

The purpose of the research is to analyze the Ukrainian History textbooks and Transcarpathian Ukrainian historiography edited between 1991 and 2007, and to outline the image of the most important events of Hungarian past in reflection of native Ukrainian authors, historians.

Main chapters of the dissertation

The work consists of three chapters, introduction, conclusions, bibliography and appendix.

The first chapter deals with the theory and concept of the Imagology, the short overviews of the results in the Hungarian nation-image research, procedure of forming Ukrainian nation and state, revival movements in the 19th century and in the years after its independence.

The second chapter contains the results of the analyses of History textbooks, published between 1991–2007 and used in schools of Ukraine. The aim of the research is to get to know how the authors introduce the important events and heroes of Hungarian history. Because according to the hypothesis the state power uses the school textbooks – especially history textbooks – for influencing schoolchildren's image about other nations and themselves. Others are most often described as enemies, while the Ukrainian nation is always said to be the victim.

The third chapter examines the Ukrainian local historiography of the above mentioned period published in Transcarpathia. The analysis focuses on the question: how they illustrate the main events of the Hungarian history like: the Settlement of Hungarians in Carpathian-basin, foundation of the state, defeat at Mohacs, Rakoczi's War of Independence, Revolution in 1848-1849, the First World War and contracts closing the War, the events in Transcarpathia in 1938-1939, the change of government in 1944, and the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

II. Results of the dissertation

The conclusion contains the results of the research. We can say that both in textbooks and local history works the image is developing depending on how Ukrainians interested in the particular event, for example the Settlement of Hungarians in Carpathian-basin and foundation of the state, in local history books are showed in quite negative way, because Transcarpathia now belongs to Ukraine and they want to prove that he Slavic were here earlier. The medieval connections are sometimes friendly, sometimes hostile depending on the relationship between the Arpads and Princes of Kijev and Halich. About the events at Mohach very little information is given, but it can be known that the Hungarian Monarchy fell apart. The Rakoczi's War of Independence is the most dealt Hungarian historical event, because Ruthenians took part in it. Revolution in 1848-1849 is important from the Ukrainian point of

view as well, because it was the beginning of the Ukrainian national movement. Among the events of the First World War the most stressed one is when Transcarpathia became the part of Czechoslovakia. The most negative description and evaluation is given to the occurrence when Hungary got back Transcarpathia according to the first Viennese decision (1938, November, 2.) and the Hungarian army on 15th of March in 1939, “occupied” the territory of newly born Carpathian-Ukraine. On the contrary with the soviet historiography the deportation which was in 1944 against the Hungarians is not withheld but the Historians estimate this occasion as the “rejoining” of the ancient Ukrainian ethnic fields. About the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 almost there is no information, because it was the “rebellion” against the soviet power.

Practical significance of the research is to supply the Hungarian imagological studies with this segment of the Ukrainians’ Hungarian image, which aspect is quiet undetected yet.

III. The publications of the author in the subject:

1. **Medvecz Andrea – Soós Kálmán:** Adalékok korai történelmünk megítéléséhez Kárpátalján (ukrán nyelvű tan- és segédkönyvek a honfoglalás és államalapítás koráról). – In: ACTA BEREKSASIENSIS, 2000. 1. sz. 122–134.

2. **Medvecz Andrea – Soós Kálmán:** A honfoglalás és az államalapítás kora a kárpátaljai helytörténetírásban. – In: Hítel. XIV. évfolyam. 2001, szeptember. 56–63.

3. **Medvecz Andrea – Soós Kálmán:** A honfoglalás és az államalapítás kora a kárpátaljai helytörténetírásban. – In: Magyarország és a Kijevi Ruszj. Ungvár, 2001. 167–178.

4. **Medvecz Andrea – Soós Kálmán:** Adalékok II. Rákóczi Ferenc és kora megítéléséhez a régió ukrán helytörténetírásában (1990–1999). – In: A Rákóczi-szabadságharc és Közép-Európa. II. Tanulmányok a Rákóczi-szabadságharc kezdetének 300. évfordulójára. Szerk.: Tamás Edit. Sárospatak, 2003. 307–314.

5. **Medvecz Andrea:** A magyar nép történetének ábrázolása az Ukrajnában megjelent általános- és középiskolai tankönyvekben. – In: KÚT. Az ELTE-BTK Történelemtudományi Doktori Iskola kiadványa. I. évfolyam. 2003. 2. szám. 43–61.

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7. **Medvecz Andrea:** Kossuth Lajos és kora az ukrán helytörténetírásban. – In: Közös értékeink. Tanulmánykötet. Szerk.: Gabóda Béla és Lipcsei Imre. Ungvár, 2004. 137–150.

8. **Andreja Medvec:** Pokaz isztoricsnih pogyij uhorszkohe narodu v pidrucnikah isztoriji zahalynoosvzitnih ta szerednjih skil Ukrajini. – In: Mology, oszvita, nauka, kulytura i nacionalyna szamoszvidomiszty: zbirnik materialiv VIII. Vszeukrajinszkoji naukovo-prakticsnoji konferenciji. Kijiv, 12-13 travnya 2005 r.: u 6 t. T. 1. /Aszoc. navcs. zakl. Ukrajini privat. formi vlasznosztyi; Redkol. I.I. Timosenko (vidp. red.) ta in. – Kijiv: Vid-vo Jevropejszkoho un-tu, 2005. 230–233.

9. **Medvecz Andrea – Soós Kálmán:** Adalékok II. Rákóczi Ferenc és kora megítéléséhez a régió ukrán helytörténetírásban (1990-1999) – In: ACTA BEREKSASIENSIS, 2006/ V. 1. kötet. 7–13.

10. **Medvecz Andrea:** Nacionalizmus és történetírás. Az ukrán történelem-formálás hatása a nemzetté válás folyamatában. (1. rész) – In: ACTA BEREKSASIENSIS, 2006/ V. 2. kötet. 100–120.

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12. **Bocskor Medvecz Andrea:** Ukrajnai történelemtankönyvek képe a magyarokról és a magyar történelemről. – In: A magyarságkép a közép-európai tankönyvekben a 20. században. Kutatási Füzetek 14. A Pécsi Tudományegyetem Interdiszciplináris Doktori Iskolájának kiadványsorozata. Szerkesztő: Fischer Ferenc, Ormos Mária, Harsányi Iván. A kötet szerk.: Hornyák Árpád, Vitári Zsolt. Pécsi Tudományegyetem, Pécs, 2009. 385–411.

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