

ABSTRACT

In this volume I'll examine how the professionals (ethnographers, folklorists, anthropologists) and the reading public related to Romanian folk poetry publications over the last hundred years, given the historical and political context. The paper focuses on the published books, concentrating on the mechanisms and results that filter through from the book releases, folklore research on the boundary of private and public spheres – research, publication, reception.

During the research I have studied the political, economic and institutional background of the eras of the Hungarian folklore publishing in Romania – first era (1919–1947), second period (1948–1989) and third, from 1990 to the present. In the case studies – using articles and book reviews, critical treatises published in journals and folklore of conversations, interviews and letters, reading books reception were followed – on the one hand the tension between scientific representation and the local reception, examining the contradictions in connection with an encounter with a folklore publication, on the other hand, the objectified encounter with tradition, the cultural heritage of oral rather than written taking into account, in printed form to transfer the possibility of positive aspects.

In the first chapter I present in the context of scientific research, the concept of use and the theoretical framework indicating the sources of research and methodological framework for the research.

In the second chapter I review the institutional framework in relation to the first period of Hungarian ethnographic book publishing in Romania (1919–1947), which made scientific research possible, methods and strategies of finality, the publication of results in journals and books have been determined, present the journals and the era of book publishing. In addition to the chapters compiled in Hungarian folk poetry publications in Romania – list for this period, which can be read as Appendix – books and special prints, scientific booklets.

The third chapter, the institutional framework, key journals and book publishing, I present the second period of the Hungarian ethnographic book publishing in Romania (1948–1989) and the era of collecting folklore movements, competitions, tenders and their results. This chapter complements the list of the era's Hungarian folk poetry publications in Romania, and a list published in translation volumes – Hungarian folk poetry translated into Romanian and other nationalities folklore translated into Hungarian.

The fourth chapter examines the reception history of the folktale collections in the second period of the Hungarian ethnographic book publishing in Romania (1948–1989) and includes three case studies: the first presents and analyses the tale discussions of the late 1940's and early 1950's; the second one the professional and local reception history of a folktale collection published in 1970, and the third the professional and local reception history of a folktale collection published in 1977.

The fifth chapter examines the reception history of the folk ballad collections in the second period of the Hungarian ethnographic book publishing in Romania (1948–1989) and includes case studies.

The sixth chapter examines a book-related debate around two key themes – folklorism and remembrance – which took place in 1987–1988, and can be followed in the argumentative press article, reviews and critiques.

In the seventh chapter I briefly summarize the changes affecting the Hungarian ethnographic book publishing in Romania after 1989.

The eighth chapter contains four case studies: the first the reception history of a Hungarian folklore collection published in 2008, a self-taught folk specialist autobiography and poems from Viștea/Magyarvita, the second the reception history of a Hungarian folktale collection from Fizeșu Gherlii/Ördöngösfüzes, while the last two seek answers in connection with the folklore research and publication – why can conflicts develop between local reception and the academic, professional receptions.

In the first era of the Hungarian folklore publications in Romania the intellectual circles looked at the folklore publications as means of maintaining national identity, forming local and regional identity. The period of 1948–1989 was characterized by a biased attitude concerning folklore: on the one hand there was a strong fear of weakening even disappearance of certain genres such as folktale, folk ballads, on the other hand sustaining that the phenomenon is only that of change and development. Besides the social changed value of the folklore was to serve the cause of the peace and friendship between nationalities. For that it was necessary to research the national, local and individual traits of folklore and find a common ground for comparison. The researchers, representatives of scientific research expected theoretical and methodic modernism, the constant renewal.

After the change in 1989 with the renewal of the Hungarian folklore studies in Romania and the reorganization of institutions the publications themselves have differentiated according to different end products and target audiences.