

**BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ-NAPOCA
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“HISTORY.CIVILIZATION.CULTURE”**

**PhD THESIS SUMMARY
THE ADA-KALEH ISLAND COLLECTIVE
MEMORY OF THE INHABITANTS**

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Keywords: island, community, culture, collective memory, oral history, Turkish visit, the royal family, ADA Kaleh, traditions, customs, saint Baba Misikin, displacement, everyday living.

In this paper I intend to treat the theme "Ada-Kaleh in the collective memory of the inhabitants". The subject of the work is not chosen randomly, the decision to study this sensitive aspect of recent local history, is because I previously addressed this issue in the Oral History Project "Past around us. Oral history of local communities' desire that this work represents one of many possible "refunds" picture this enchanted island sleeping deep Danube whole oriental mirage.

Ada-Kaleh research theme in the collective memory of residents trying to rebuild community life on the island as it was before displacement and disappearance of its inhabitants in the Danube. Research Plan was achieved entirely through activities and technical resources which we benefited. Objectives to implement the research plan were fully met. These are reflected in the research conducted by technical means (recorder, laptop, books, camera) that have benefited from the Quality Excellence Mobility Transnational doctoral research. So far this subject was only sporadic attention of journalists in search of unusual and ethnographers concerned allogeneous traditions.

If the community that lived in ADA Kaleh about their occupations was written about island history less. That's why I brought novelty in my research aspects of architectural buildings and monuments such as the fortress architecture of ADA Kaleh mocheea house and the house of Regep Aga Pasalic. I covered news related to the daily life of the island namely islanders cultural life, customs and traditions, news related to the economic presentation of certain companies and factories, personalities who have visited the island and displacement and feelings of people played using analysis interviews undertaken.

The methods and techniques used were documented in books written about the island, press the nineteenth century, archival, documentary films (Greetings from ADA Kaleh, producer Cinematography Alexandru Sahia Studio 1969, lasting eight minutes and 30 seconds last spring in Ada - Kaleh, producer Cinematographic Studio Alexandru Sahia, 1969 with a duration of eight minutes and 30 seconds of videos in which the Ada Kaleh appears), artifacts (objects of heritage clothing items found the museum), old photos and personal collections of respondents, maps, models and social survey based on interviews with four categories: people who lived on Ada-Kaleh, descendants of people who lived on Ada-Kaleh recounting memories of family members, people who participated in the island and displaced

persons who have visited the island.

My research was based on a total of 5000 sheets of paper (sheets disparate registers, memories, tables, etc.) written in Romanian and Turkish, both in Arabic script until 1925, and in Latin writing covered Village Hall Fund ADA Kaleh, from Mehedinti County Department of National Archives, Marriages and file folder named June 7 list with the names in Turkish school students with materials and notes Fund and cigarette factory and the ADA Kaleh Elementary school .

Hagop Fund Djololian SIRUN found department of Bucharest National Archives file no. 570 Turks ADA aspects of life Kaleh and file no. 648 Archive of ADA Kaleh containing summaries of translated documents and provide information loaded short entrepreneurship întrerinsă islanders the early century. XX.

Fund Gr. N. Dumitrescu Bistrita in Mehedinti archives includes an impressive number of press photographers with which we could reconstruct the appearance imaginary island.

All archives have the archives Mehedinti and cigarette factory presents economic information and aspects of everyday life of the Turkish community on the island.

This work was based and interview method and realized 62 oral history interviews. The interview guide was divided into four categories: the first category people who inhabited the island ADA Kaleh, here we were able to interview a number of 17 people, the second category, the descendants of people who lived in ADA Kaleh, I made a number three interviews, the third category of people who visited the ADA Kaleh island, making a total of 38 interviews and the last category is that of people who participated in the resettlement of the island, managed to interview a number of 3 people .

The interviews are attempting to recover the collective memory and play these fragments of memory through answers to questions in the interview guide. Speaking today about something that doesn't exist anymore is something as painful as it is difficult to express.

The difficulty arises when wanting to keep the necessary objectivity in the description, giving emotional memories loaded subjectivity distances us from reality as it. Add to this the time that has elapsed since the disappearance of the island.

Following interviews with former islanders found that displacement caused by loss of acquisitions unimaginable dramas of life, uprooting causing immense pain in their souls.

We can enjoy today can look forward to a reality that was and to tell the whole truth, because any ignorance, omission or oversight can not only impede future research and development. The role of the historian is to provide a simple description of the facts but also

their explanation. Do not judge the context that generated some laws that have a correct view of the research but that is how such decisions could affect people's lives.

Iron Gates hydroelectric construction resulted primarily disappearance of an island that could be a very important landmark for Mehedinti county and secondly due to increased water level Danube sturgeons started to disappear. We observe that the aquatic fauna is affected Besides destroying a community. I wanted to show the past Ada-Kaleh based on oral history testimonies.

The work is based on the testimonies of oral history, and specific bibliography includes papers, studies, articles in the press of the century XX, archival, published and unpublished, is divided into five chapters.

In the first chapter entitled "Fingerprints history and geography of the island ADA Kaleh" I presented aspects of geographical evolution and tumultuous history of the island. Evolution toponymic, historical aspects of prehistory, ancient, medieval and here dwell on certain events rather important first siege of the island in 1690, the second siege in 1738 and the last Austro-Ottoman modern times that the pages of history islander during pasha Regep Aga, this land was a place of exile for revolutionaries countries subjugated, was garrisoned open occupation asustriacă, contemporary era here I stopped on the role played by the island during the war of reunification national issues interwar period communist archive file that certain of the twentieth century. Alone in the middle of the Danube, in front of the two mountains that descends sharply to the waves river hindered the possibility of movement conquests at the foot of their Ada-Kaleh been shown to play, just like Gibraltar, a strategic role in controlling and preventing (the need) movement on the water and on land, separating East from West. Due to this settlement it had great importance by many to turn early look at her.

The second chapter entitled "Architectural monuments from the land disappeared under the waters of the reservoir of the hydroelectric Iron Gates I" aimed at fixing graphics and documentary of valuable buildings of architecture doomed to disappear and to preserve and restore at least human individual mind of valuable buildings and monuments of historical and artistic point of view under the great lake flooded the Iron Gates hydroelectric dam. Among buildings and Pasalic home which was imperial-style house Regep Aga all imperial style include monuments such as the city of Ada Kaleh which is a monument of military architecture and Ada-Kaleh mosque as a monument of religious architecture.

In the third chapter, entitled "Issues related to the daily life of Ada-Kaleh" I presented: description of the island, its inhabitants as they emerge from censuses, archival, occupations

islanders, customs and traditions and legend of St. Miskin Baba cultural life and here we have the school as a cultural by lower vocational school for girls and primary school, community center, cultural society and bibliotescași other issues pertaining to the cultural activity of ADA Kaleh.

Chapter IV, entitled "Economic life" including the establishment of stock Society Muslim-its activity, cigarette factory and shit and park boats, bakery, and all booths larger or smaller which he held Ali Kadri, municipal taxes smuggling and flooding that occurred on the island.

The conclusions are my views on the role and importance of Ada-Kaleh Island, which remained an attractive old drowned in the Danube. Through interviews, we were able to identify the huge gap that we have in mind those who have lived on Ada-Kaleh.

Oral history records life memories and feelings of those types of people hidden history and gives us a vivid picture of our past. Also helps those hidden history to be heard, and those interested in their past record personal experiences crucial at a time for families and their communities. It is a kind of living history through unique experiences.

Oral history reveals, predominantly in comparison with written sources, traumatic history of individuals, family, community, given that on many collective and individual tragedies is laid willful amnesia. Trauma, natural disasters covered in oral history research data to produce a cathartic release for the victims.

History and memory are closely related memory research is the subject of history, and history is to provide it with facts and events are stored. History is the memory product, in relation to the way in which the human individual lives his events.

Speaking today about something that there is something painful and difficult to express. The difficulty arises when wanting to keep the necessary objectivity in the description, giving emotional memories, loaded bias you away from reality as it. Add to this the time that has elapsed since the disappearance of the island.

Following interviews with former islanders found that displacement caused by loss of agoniseli unimaginable dramas of life, uprooting causing immense pain in their souls.

Iron Gates hydroelectric construction resulted primarily disappearance of an island that could be a very important landmark for Mehedinti county and secondly due to increased water level Danube sturgeons started to disappear. We observe that the aquatic fauna is affected Besides destroying a community.

Oral history is fascinating because it is new and interactive is shared history: a rare opportunity to speak to the true history face to face. Each of us has an oral history, a story

about our journey through life.

This research method can be appreciated as one potential reason: on the one hand, because we can enter into a lively dialogue with the narrator, on the other hand, we can turn to narratives about the same facts collected from several individuals. We analyze relations - Group and socio-cultural. The technique involves using the interview as a means of research and knowledge of the recent history of a person, family, group or community.

In terms of methodology, oral history not only provides the tools to recover the recent past, but a grid of interpretation and analysis of written documents, drawn up in past eras, containing transcripts of oral statements, such as, for example, a transcript of the interview if a process in the Middle Ages.

Oral history has been applied successfully in most of European countries and the US, through projects aimed at eliminating prejudice and discrimination in multiethnic communities and confessional, and to improve communication between generations at various levels: school, family, church, village / city, region, country.

Memorialistic literature although starts from premises of personal memories, emotions and stories that reveal particular, "con-crosses" individual time and historical time, which relate to events ever witnessed. On the other hand, the confessor always oscillates between two facets temporal discourse: narrative committed during a time of living. Thus, from both perspectives, the individual is anchored in the community, history invades his privacy, without diminishing individual personality.

Oral history provides a new perspective on the recent past, with particular relevance to local communities, encouraging intergenerational dialogue, the spirit of tolerance, non-discrimination, as a way to interconnect the school and local community.

Oral history is interactive, it involves acquiring technical knowledge to use digital equipment for audio / video recording, transfer, and archival data storage, processing and utilization of community activity results in the classroom. At the moment there are no programs that offer continuing professional Forming this teaching methodology, particularly useful and effective in the classroom.

Interview method is needed both in therapy for the soul weighing load release and can be healing, but also to reconstruct the social life of a community of certain cognitive reasons having an educational purpose. Alion mountain basin formed on the Romanian bank and Golumska Planina, on the shores of Yugoslavia, rises in a shower of green waves, jagged walls of red lace. Water, mountains, sunshine ... Beyond the gigantic clash between mountains and water, a true "illusion" see the horizon. Maybe it was just a delusion, a mirage

of the Danube reflected in the mirror of water, a moment of playful rest river clashed with mountains, a heady pleasure fierce waves against the rocks.

But the image persisted and tongue of sand divided the waters into two, a miniature city is emerging. A Lilliputian town, in a ... legendary. Tennis born foam millennial blue Danube waves, scenic world, a relic of oriental life in the middle Danube. The walls of the fortress and minaret, camouflaged foliage, old mirrored quiet river water.

Look at the Congress of Berlin (1878), Ada Kaleh Turkish possession remained under Austro-Hungarian occupation until 1920 when it became the Romanian territory. Before the accumulation lake from the Iron Gate, the main historical sites on the island were destroyed. Trying rebuilding their downstream Simian island in succeeding years without success, most people preferring to move to other regions of Romania or to emigrate to Turkey.

The tradition of ethnic coexistence and good relations will be better revealed contemporaries and European spirit of people in this area will strengthen and deepen the meanings and special arguments. Today, all that remains of Ada-Kaleh, are objects that once belonged to the Turkish community scattered throughout the collections of museums in the country and remains the original island full of picturesque Şimianului. Atmosfera remained only a memory in the hearts of those who they had the unique opportunity to visit this oasis Muslim middle Romanian waters.

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