

TEXT ANALYSIS

The Renaissance of Nationalism by Nuala C. Johnson.

I have identified the following key words:

- Imaginative Nationalism: It is the process of development of a national identity through a cultural, economic, folkloric, traditional, poetic... speech which is defunded by music, monuments, media, etc.
- Nationalism: Ideological and political movement that raise the nation as the unique identity reference of this political community. It has two basic principles: the national sovereignty where the nation is the unique legitimate base for the State and the nationality principle, which says that each nation must have their own State and where the national borders must coincide with the State ones.
- Language planning: Process which is made up by a set of measures (standardization of spelling, grammar...) to establish the dominance of one language in a given territorial space through the school and other means.
- Homeland: It is the space where is built the national feeling, so it is also used to build this feeling.

The text explains how are created the national feelings through a nationalism process based in the spreading of a community feeling according with several means as the language, the past or the geographical space. So the author sums up all of it through "imaginative nationalism" concept.

To build all of it is used a lot of features within a process. The language is one of the tools because it can give ideas of common identity, it has a link with the past and it is an important communicative resource. So the language planning is fundamental in the identity development, thus the existence of other language communities can generate separatist ideas as we can see in Canada or Belgium. And it has also been important in to recover the identity in postcolonial countries, recovering the local language.

The spreading of a common historical past, materialized in persons, landscapes, buildings, dates... has developed during XIX century (through the education system mainly) and XX century (through other tools as museums, buildings...) as a important point to build up national identities. We can see good examples in Scotland or United Kingdom. So, the nationalism took up again the past to represent its continuity, in this way take important place the monuments as symbolic figures, events, persons (political leaders, writers, painters...) as we can see in the old Soviet Union, in London (Trafalgar Square) or a lot of examples in USA about the wars (like monuments for the Vietnam war). It has also been used for the separatist as a pillar of national fight.

Another point to take in consideration is the role of the women in these issues. The women has been a national symbol too many times (representing justice, equality... like in the French revolution) or has taken an important role in the national construction as a revolutionary head. Anyway, the national projects usually has forgotten this actions, putting the women role in a secondary space.

Finally he speaks about the territory as an important link with the national project, introducing the concept of homeland.

The text tries to find the things that are being usually used to the development of national feeling. He said that there are a lot of important things which are standardized or recovered just to put something in common to everybody into the same national space, with a common historic past. So it is an explanation about putting pillars in the national projects, as a construction of national identity, checking a lot of examples which explains this kind of behaviors.

I think that during the whole history the identity feelings have existed, being developed through different ways, according to each context. Anyway, the truly expand of national concept began in XIX century, arriving until today but using, practically, the same tools to build this national projects based in the language, in the past or even in economic issues.