

## **THE TRADITIONS AND HABITS OF ROMANIAN PEOPLE FROM MÉHKERÉK, HUNGARY COUNTRY)**

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### **ABSTRACT - The traditions and habits of Romanian people from Méhkerék, Hungary country)**

Romanians in Hungary have never belonged to the Romanian state, so they built its identity on language, religion and traditions, habits, trying to keep specific. In the identity preservation the situation of Romanian communities in Hungary differ from one place to another. Because their life was carried out according to historical and social conditions of the locality where they lived, Romanian communities are in different phases in terms of native language proficiency and assimilation process. Romanians in Hungary have long maintained the identity of the settlements with mixed population from Bechiș County, where live together with Hungarians, Serbs, Germans, Slovaks and Gypsies.

**Keywords:** Wedding, Christmas carols, traditions, customs, Romanian community

## **INTRODUCTION**

Micherechi, is known as the only purely Romanian village with a population of Hungary, where people know each of the local dialect.

Micherechi village is the village where from the 1960 is found in the center of Romanian research in Hungary- being considered- with all local and ethnic traits - a real curiosity.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

To achieve the objectives of this paper, the working method used were: study data collection, processing, analysis and interpretation.

To identify Romanian traditions and customs of the community from Micherechi I appeal to the analysis of the rural community from Micherechi namely: Data collection was done so in consultation with several existing bibliographic sources and through field research. The study of bibliographical sources and field research were conducted in the library of Szeged Hungary and in the Micherechi village, with the occasion of the doctoral internship carrying between 1 November 2009 to 30 June 2010, at the Faculty of Agriculture – Hódmezővásárhely, as part of the University of Szeged.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

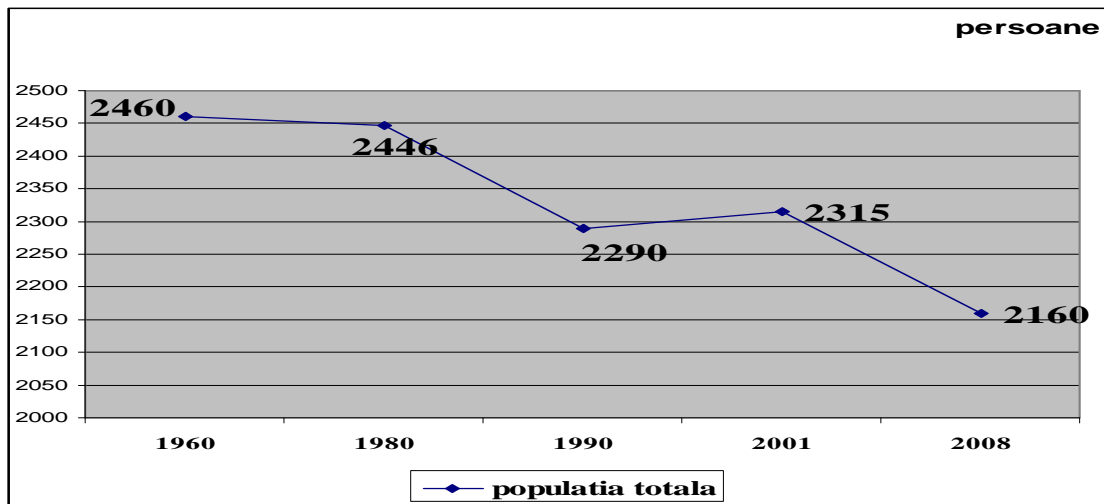
In 2008 the total population of the Micherechi village was 2160 people. According to statistics data the population of Micherechi has fluctuated during 1960-2008 (*table 1*).

**Table 1. Evolution of Micherechi village between 1960-2008**

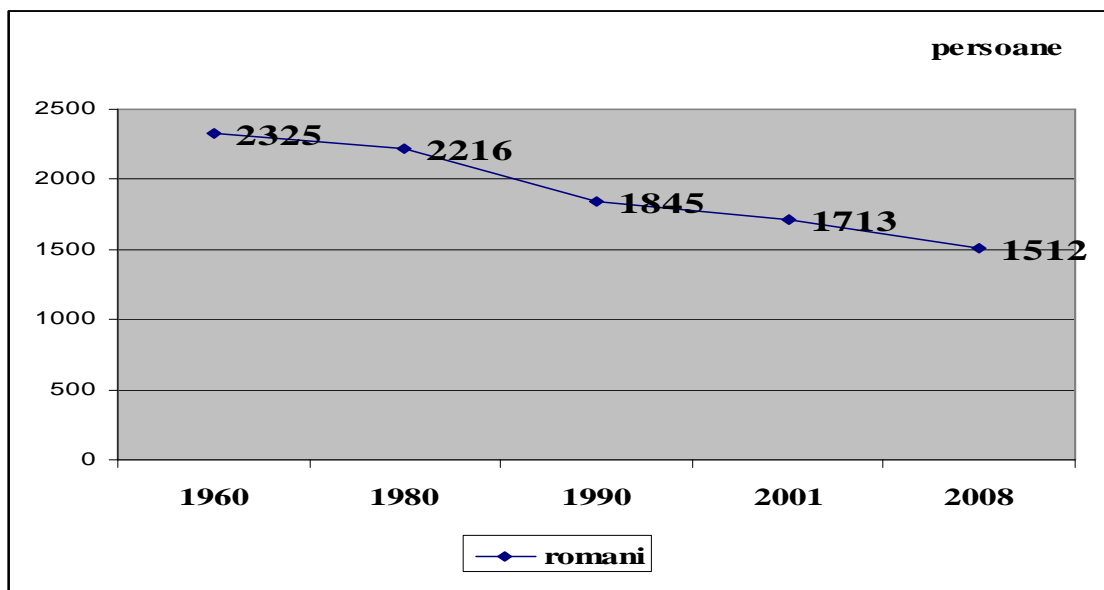
Year	1960		1980		1990		2001		2008	
	nr.	%	nr.	%	nr.	%	nr.	%	nr.	%
<b>Total</b>	2460	100	2446	100	2290	100	2315	100	2160	100
<b>Romania</b>	2325	94,5	2216	90,6	1845	80,6	1713	74	~1512*	~70*

Note: \* 2008 estimates data

Source: Data processed according to BERÉNYI MARIA, MIHAELA BUCIU, *Publicație a Institutului de Cercetări al Românilor din Ungaria, MICHERECHI – Pagini istorico- culturale and* <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A9ker%C3%A9k>



**Fig. 1. Evolution of the total population in the village Micherechi**



**Fig. 2. Evolution of Romanian nationality in the village Micherechi**

According to the graphic we can observe that the majority of the population from Micherechi has Romanian nationality but the evolution during 1960-2008 is downward. The Romanian community from Micherechi has retained his habits since the most remote times, when they established their places today.

Come and sit in the village, hamlets and dwellings, of the area between the Black and the White Criş have brought with them a language - default a spiritual wealth linkedit, which have maintained a strict until the mid-twentieth century.

This phenomenon partly explained by the fact that of all its socio-cultural manifestations in general habits proved to be the toughest time.

In traditional culture - whether it's calendar habits, whether we are dealing with traditions related to the main moments of family life, implicitly covers all the so-called traditional culture- Micherechiul left us an resembles a rich and varied heritage.

The name of the village came to be known in Hungary and traditional dances put on stage in various choreographers.

Romanian dances from Micherechi are not only repertoire of dance team of the town founded in the 1940s, but are spread by different professional ensembles, reaching a national reputation.

### **Family cycle habits**

The social life of young people from Micherechi a major role - they had habits as: evening sitting of village women, opportunities for working together, games held on Sundays year and holidays.

The game is not meant only for entertainment but an opportunity had an important role in linking knowledge and prediction of future marriages.

We can say with certainty that during the micherechene wedding there are many private note: wedding celebration represent even today the richest folk event known of all Romanians in Hungary

Here the wedding combines a perfect harmony with dance music, poetic, dramatic scenes populated with some solemn moments of sadness of parting.

The suite ceremony from Micherechi, even today, has retained a unique scenario, not only because it takes place according to ancient traditions, but also by the fact that here were rigorously maintained and a series of intermediate sequences splendid, even if some of them are borrowed - and adapted to the site - the vast range ungurimii same gender, who live in the bosom of centuries to come.

Of course, over the centuries, the functionality of sequences could happen - and probably have spent - some changes, but they could not be essential- decisive inferred from the unparalleled wealth of features "pure Romanian" certified yet., there are differences between the wedding from micherecheana and the wedding from giulana, săcăleana, aleteana, băţianiana and others.

In Romanian villages mentioned, for instance, the wedding last, often a day or two at best, say three- Saturday preceding, Sunday Gala and Monday party, - in Micherechi this socio-folk event last one week.

The funeral ceremony of Romanians Micherechi is as rich in customs and beliefs, like the Romanians from Romania, which are rooted in mystery and fear a transcendental world of the dead, of the world after death.

At Micherechi means someone dead if the dog yelp, the owl sing, the fowl sing with the cock, a star falls, doors or furniture pieces snap, the mirror on the wall falls.

In the circle of Romanians from Micherechi "dead man's complaint" as of all Romanians regardless of location, is an old tradition, practiced today, which is based on faith in the survival of the soul of the deceased.

By the early 1990s was done alms immediately after the funeral at the house of the dead, where those present were feast with brandy, bread and bacon. Currently alms dead acquired other connotations due to infusion of urban modernism.

### **Holiday calendar**

In Micherechi habits Holidays, especially those of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, is practiced today following the Romanian traditions.

The largest celebration of the winter cycle is Christmas, festival dedicated to the solar god of the winter solstice period over which overlapped the Nativity of Jesus Christianity.

Christmas is anticipated during the Advent period, but this is not represented by such strict abstention from food such as Lent period.

The most common Christmas tradition practiced in his simplified form even today is caroling „*walking with cucuțare*”.

The carolers are usually organized in groups of male or groups of children, interpreting from house to house, magical texts with formulas ceremonial, wearing with them ritual props.

During the Easter holidays the most significant is Easter Sunday, celebration at different dates, when there is surrounding the church.

According to writings about the Easter holidays, in earlier times the Christians celebrated the Resurrection with a procession through a larger area in order to keep the territory surrounded by evil spirits and evil nature.

The Red Egg occupy a central role in Easter traditions. The eggs are colour with onion leaf and green wheat, and decoration was done with the leaves application on the eggs, before being boiled in colored solution, as their place to stay white.



**Traditional Easter Eggs from Micherechi Traditional Easter Eggs from Crisana area**

Music and dancing are an important means of expressing the feelings, aspirations, human aspirations, influenced his spiritual life.

Folk music includes all thoughts and concerns, reflecting the social, spiritual emotional problems which crystallized emotional richness of the community, as well as the personal lives of the interpreter. Interpreters popular songs and dances were inspired by their own experiences, and the opportunities to sing and dance were numerous: Romanian round dance, wedding, evening sitting of village women.

In addition to numerous places reserved specifically for parties, people from villages at any time less or more important in their lives gathered and with the musicians together begin to dance.



### Popular Costume from Micherechi area      Popular Costume from Crisana area

Micherechi **musical folklore** is characterized by beauty and melody with a through a varied pace.

The life particularity and the local traditions have given to the micherechean song specific feature of content and form, clearly distinguished from other Romanian cities.

Micherechiului musical tradition belongs to the Bihor area folk.

Composer *Bela Bartok*, researching the folk music from Bihor excited about their beauty, said: „ *We must be seen the Romanian folk music from Hunedoara and particular of Bihor, as the more typical Romanian folk music*”.

At Micherechi they say: „*Come and horim!*”, as in other villages of Bihar.

Grouping the micherechean folk music heritage in terms of musical categories seems to be the most comprehensive.

I found the songs in the following categories: Romanian round dance (*horă*), carol (*corindă*), disenchantment after dead (*bocete*).

Following the research conducted and presented in this paper on Micherechi village was made an inventory of popular customs and traditions relating to family life and community celebrations of the Romania calendar countries who live in this locality, all this being found in Bihor area.

We mention that these customs and traditions are preserved today in the neighboring towns of Romania especially in the former region Crisana Romania, which includes the locality of Arad, Bihor and Satu Mare.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Over the time (1960-2008) Micherechi village population was dominant population of Romanian nationality (Romanian 94.5% in 1960 and about 70% in 2008) who have kept the culture, traditions and customs.
- The Romanians people from Hungary have found to keep a continuous form of affirmation and reaffirmation of national consciousness.
- We can speak, about a attempt more or less conscious of recovering the cultural memory.
- Taking into account the situation and the facts, today we can not talk, in the true sense of the word of a traditional culture but in the last years is seen more pronounced the desire to revive and introduce in some events (wedding) for old items, so causing the extension of their existence.
- Most traditions and customs presented to the Romanians people from Micherechi is kept today in Romania, especially in Cris country.

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