

FOLK CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS IN ILOK AND ITS OUTLYING AREAS

SUMMARY

This article is the introductory study to a more extensive research project on the folk customs of Ilok and outlying areas, and investigation of the relation between ethnic identity, and folk customs as a symbols of that identity. The purpose of the article is to create a framework for one aspect of custom-related behavior, i.e. seasonal customs. After the introduction, the author briefly sets forth the conceptual framework of the research project with consultation of relevant literature, and follows with a description of local customs with particular emphasis on customs related to the winter season. Description of customs and their analysis indicate that daily life of examinees-narrators, the inhabitants of Ilok and outlying areas, was immersed in custom-related behavior. The author is of the opinion that the research results (on the basis of comparison with her own records and existing literature on the Croatian folk customs) correlates with two temporal levels: the level of the past, in which it is apparent that these customs and certain of their elements are related to the rest of the Croatian ethnic region, or broader yet, with the European cultural context. The second is the level of the present, within which those examined exhibited a positive attitude toward their own cultural legacy.

(Translated by E. Elias-Bursać)