

Romanian Immigrants from the United States of America: Book Review

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Abstract

This paper is a review of an important Romanian book, regarding the international problem of the migration with all its influence factors. Thus, the author begins from a general view and brings into discussion a particular case: Romanians from the USA.

Keywords: migration, immigrants, Romanian immigrants

JEL classification: F66, J01, J6

1 INTRODUCTION

The Romanian Assistant Professor, Dan Valeriu Voinea, has published a remarkable book, "Romanian immigrants from the United States of America, Craiova: Sitech, 2015. We can find the book on the Romanian market, like "Imigranții români din Statele Unite ale Americii".

The book has like theme the international migration phenomenon, presenting all the influence factors which lead to this global problem, from which the most important are: the raising trend of the migration, the liberalization of the frontiers and the liberalization of the work force, social-economic factors.

This paper (Voinea, 2015) is a natural continuation of previous research of D. V. Voinea (Voinea, 2013; Voinea, 2014a; Voinea, 2014b) of research and, on the other hand, a real development researches of some reputed Romanian specialists (Hartular, 1996; Sandu, 2010; Drăgulin, 2011; Ciocănescu, 2011; Porumbescu, 2014; Ianoș Stănescu, 2015).

The particular case of the migration in Romania has in majority economic and social factors of influence. The theme was approached by the same author in his doctoral these: The economic and social co-ordinate of the Romanian immigration in the United States of America.

The motivations which guided the author in his research were: the numerical importance of the migration phenomenon; the historical importance of the migration; the curiosity and the affinity through American dream and values, but also the experience of the author on the American region.

2 BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

The paper is conceived on three theoretical directions: the analysis of the migration literature; the transnationalism; the phenomenon of the migration and the flows of persons generated by this phenomenon. The applied part of the book contains: the historical and statistical analysis of the migration and the Romanian citizens which are established nowadays in USA and the research on the field based on the own experience of the author.

The author used qualitative method: the opinion inquest method and the questionnaire application technique (CAPI and CASI technique); the interviews application for a good knowledge of the Romanian immigrants in the USA; the analysis of social documents. The sample used for the quantitative research by the

author Dan Valeriu Voinea, consisted of 634 Romanian immigrants who are over 18 years old and live in USA.

The principal aim of the research was “the achievement of a paper, with a monographic type, about the Romanian community of the USA, following in the same time a serie of derived objectives: defining the identity of the Romanians from the USA, compared with the identity of the Romanians and the Americans, outlining the profile of the Romanian immigrants from an economic, social and professional perspective- for creating their monography; identifying the level of integration of the Romanians in the American society; identifying the religious implication and the frequence of the transfer from a religion to another; the analysis of the identity from the perspective of the language talked in family”.

The first chapter consists of the scientific stage in the domain of the migration sociology from a theoretical perspective. It was observed that the phenomenon of migration had not only an economic determination and the decision of migration was given by the social units (the family, the collective farm, the community) and not by a singular person. The income raising is measured in relative terms, in comparison with the income of the other members of the community. The decision of the migration is part of the strategy of risk minimization by the diversification of the income.

The theory of the segmented work force market speaks about the motivation of the migration which is done by the necessity of labor force in the modern industrial societies. This necessity is created by four important factors: structural inflation, hierarchical constraints of the motivation, economic dualism, demographic changes of the labor force reserve. They are identified two different types of market which receive the immigrants: a primary sector, which needs a very good professional qualification, but offers good work conditions and a good remuneration and the secondary sector in which integrate the new immigrants, unattractive for the citizens, with low qualifications, poor work conditions and low wages. Thus, the immigrants have a positive influence on the evolution of the destination society, given by the availability to occupe the undeserved position on the labor market.

The author guided his work on the statistic study made by American Community Survey. The study aims to identify the social-demographic characteristics of the Romanian immigrants in the USA. It was also choosed like inspiration source the study made by the U.S. Census Bureau, which includes aspects like: origin country, level of education, type of language known, level of income, family structure, occupation.

One of the most important thing in the life of an immigrant is becoming a citizen of the destination country. It was also observed by the author, in talking about the subject of the Romanian immigrants in the USA, that their community is spread all over the USA, but not in unitary way. Thus, the majority of Romanian immigrants are born citizens and represent over 60% of the persons included in this communities. Furthermore, a great part of them speak only English language and consists of young people.

Studies revealed that a striking category of Romanian immigrants in the USA is represented by women, medium aged, with superior studies in comparison with men.

Regarding the financial situation of the family, it is highlighted that almost all the Romanian immigrants consider that the income in the USA is better than in Romania, no mattering its level. The poverty is viewed of the point of view of the person who expresses and the persons who are closeg to her, which is a subjective appreciation. The majority of immigrants consider that the poverty in USA decreased in the latest ten years. Also, they consider that work and ambition, with the domination of the man over his own social destiny is vital in the fight against poverty. In addition, the majority of persons consider that their identity is related to their work. They have the opinion that is necessary to put in balance work and free time. A central place in immigrant's life is occupied by information, no matters the source.

The research on the field applied by the author, revealed that the Romanian immigrants in the USA are more likely the americans that than the Romanians. They kept their traditional values, but they have an evolution from surviving values through autoexpressing values. Also, the migration in the USA, seems more like a brain drain migration.

The Romanian immigrants are well integrated to local American communities and they preserve their moral and religious values, even if they change the religion with which they were born.

3 CONCLUSION

Dan Valeriu Voinea's book confirmed four of five initial hypotheses given in his research and he highlighted the importance of the Romanian immigrants in the USA, seen by three important perspectives: numerical, historical, cultural.

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