

EXPLORING THE COEXISTENCE OF THE CATALAN IDENTITY AND SPANISH IDENTITY IN CATALONIA

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, the Identity construct is a subject of debate. The current socio-political context, influenced largely by globalization (and the homogenizing process that characterizes it), as well as by the emergence of supranational states (as in the case of the European Union) has led to a crisis of the Nation-States, which have largely lost the political and social influence they exerted within their respective territorial limits, and above all their symbolic role as a unifying and representative organism of the individuals immersed in it (Bauman, 2007, Talavera, 1999). This situation has produced a change in the sense of attachment in some of its inhabitants, dislocating and fragmenting the identities of postmodern society and creating two main trends in terms of identities: the increase of identities of a regional nature (localisms) and those of a global nature.

On the other hand, conceptually the national and ethnic identity (currently focused more on cultural than physical aspects) has more aspects in common than differences. According to Fröse (2014) ethnicity has to do with categorization, origin and belonging of people and points out that from constructivism it is understood that one is not born with a nationality (as postulated by the essentialism), but comes to obtain it through a process of social learning in interaction with others. In other words, "you become Catalan, for example, according to what people in the environment are saying about *what* a Catalan is and how it should be and *not* be" (Wikström, 2009, p.13). Similarly, there are two main perspectives on ethnic identity: those focused on content, and those that focus on the formation process.

This last perspective, assumed in the present work, understands that we are facing a process of formation of the Identity throughout the life of an individual. In this study the model proposed by Isajiw (1990) is used. The author proposes that EI consists of two factors: 1) *External Components* (language, friendship relations, functionality of the ethnic group, mass media and ethnic traditions) and 2) *Internal Components* (affective, cognitive and moral dimension). Thus, ethnic identity (and / or national identity) is currently the basis of major events and social changes, especially in multicultural societies in which two (or more) cultures share the same territory of influence; and in those that are characterized as receiving migratory flows. We understand that this social reality would be present in Catalonia. For this reason and together with the situation of political instability and national demand on the part of some sectors of Catalan society, they make it the ideal context for the purpose of this research, which seeks to provide information on how this identity crisis is expressed in a multicultural society.

OBEJETIVES AND HYPOTESIS

The main objective of the following work is to check up on how the Catalan and Spanish identity coexist in Catalan society. For this we have formulated the following hypotheses.

- Hypothesis 1: Significant differences will be observed between the Catalan and Spanish Identity in the entire sample.
- Hypothesis 2: It is expected that 1st generation of Catalans feel more Catalan than Spanish.
- Hypothesis 3: It is expected that the 2nd generation Catalans feel more Spanish than Catalans.
- Hypothesis 4: It is expected that there will be differences between identities in terms of support for the independence movement.

METHODS

Participants

For the selection of the sample, a non-probabilistic sample was used for convenience, based on the availability of the subjects to carry out the questionnaire. This questionnaire consists of 124 individuals born in Catalonia, 64.5% are "1st generation Catalans" (those whose two parents were born in Catalonia) and 35.5% "2nd generation Catalans (who have at least one parent from other Spanish regions). 37.1% were men and 62.9% women. Participants were grouped into two age categories: 18 to 34 years (47.6%) and over 35 years. (52.4%). As for the level of education: 33.1% have completed ESO, FP and 66.9 are Licensed Graduates, Graduates, Masters and Doctors.

Materials and procedure:

The material used is the one used by Espín (1998), based on the model by Isajiw (1990). This instrument had 39 questions in double entry format (Catalan identity and Spanish identity), divided into three areas: Demographic Variables (sex, age, ascendancy, ideology and support for independence); External Components (language, relations of friendship, functionality of the ethnic group, mass media and ethnic traditions) and Internal Components (affective, cognitive and moral dimension). The scale of measure was Likert type with three points: 1 (Nothing / Never), 2 (Something / Sometimes), 3 (Much / Always). The scale was administered between the 02/19/2018 and the 04/12/2018 in online format (www.tinyurl.com/catopina), through social networks, email and mobile messaging. A physical version was also created (in Spanish and Catalan) that was administered in Barcelona between April 2 and April 6, 2018.

RESULTS

The reliability analysis reflected the following results: The reliability of the Catalan Identity shows a Cronbach's alpha of 0.864, with the external dimension being 0.795 and the internal dimension being 0.811. In the case of the Spanish Identity, Cronbach's alpha is 0.803. The external dimension presents a Cronbach's alpha of 0.811 and the internal dimension of 0.669.

Due to the large number of results obtained, the most significant are shown in Tables 1,2,3 and 4; which are available on scientific poster.

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this study was to understand the coexistence of the two identities in Catalan citizenship. The results show, except in the case of the 2nd generation Catalans, that there are significant differences between both identities, with the Catalan Identity feeling being greater.

In the case of women; those over 35 years old; Bachelor, Graduates, Doctorates; The voters of right parties and the Independents, there is an inverse tendency between both identities, that is to say: the greater Catalan Identity, the lesser Spanish Identity. This feeling of greater identification with the Catalan Identity could be explained from the "Rejection-Identification" theory of Branscombe, Schmitt and Jarvey (1999), according to which, in situations where two groups coexist (Spanish State) the minority group (Catalans) tends to increase its in-group identification if they feel rejected by the majority group.

Furthermore, as we expected in hypothesis 2, the Catalan identity is significantly higher in 1st generation Catalans, and Spanish Identity is higher in second generation Catalans. Likewise, in Catalans of 1st and 2nd generation the Catalan Identity manifests itself more intensely in the Bachelor, Graduates, Doctorates. First-generation Catalans over the age of 35 are more Catalan than Spanish. However, young Catalans of the second generation are more Spanish than those older than 35 years.

Another interesting result is the largest number of independentist Surveyed, both in Catalans of the 1st and 2nd generation. This could indicate that the independence movement is not a unique phenomenon of 1st generation Catalans, but it also includes children of immigrants from other regions of Spain. In fact, as indicated by Montserrat Clau i Fainé (2014), there are Catalan independence groups such as "Súmaté" or "Independencia en Castellano" formed by Spanish-speaking citizens, or whose main identification culture is Castilian / Spanish, who defend the right of self-determination under the slogan that "does not matter the origin but the destiny".

In this regard, In this sense, there are no significant differences between the participants who vote for "constitutionalist" parties, whatever their ascendancy is, expressing both identities in a similar way. On the contrary, there are differences on Spanish identity among the Catalan separatists of 1st and 2nd generation, being higher on this last group. However, the non-independent 1st generation Catalans feel as Spanish as Catalans. Finally, it should be noted that among right-party voters, 1st generation Catalans feel more Catalan than Spaniards and second-generation Catalans are more Spanish than Catalans. However, in the left voters, both the Catalans of 1st and 2nd generation feel more Catalan than Spanish. These results show that in the case of right-wing voters Identity is more significant than the ideology and in the case of the left-wing, ideology prevails over Identity. At last, we would like to point out that due to the limited nature of the sample, these results should not be taken as conclusive, but rather as a germ of future research that sheds light on the identity conflict in the current postmodern society.

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