

Émotion et dissociation : construction(s) discursive(s) de l'identité roumaine Emotion and dissociation: the discursive construction of Romanian identity

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Abstract: The argumentative technique of dissociation consists of redefining a term used in discourse in a particular communicative situation. This strategy may allow the speaker to use the emotional potential corresponding to certain specific terms or the emotional potential of real-life situations and events whether witnessed, reported or presented in fiction. With regard to the rhetorical situation(s) considered in the present study, the virtual audience may be reconstructed in the analysis as having access to three types of discourse: 1) official historiography, prone at times to highlight a nation's moments of glory; 2) various discourses, some of which emanate from historians, which highlight less familiar aspects (negative, and/or having little to do with heroism) of Romanian nation-building, or else voice scepticism concerning national identity or even contempt with respect to the Romanians' behaviour and/or their destiny; 3) reactions of a historian to such comments, in which he recalls emotions and appeals to the audience's emotions in order to encourage its members to have faith in the construction of national identity. The analyses are concerned with the relationship between the argumentative technique of dissociation and the rhetorical appeal to emotions.

Key words: discourse analysis, argumentation, dissociation, emotion, (Romanian) national identity.