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Musical Analysis of Traditional Music of Greece "In Dialogue"

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Abstract

This paper deals with the options, problems and new perspectives on musical analysis of Greek traditional music. The analysis was based on emic and etic analysis of ethnographic material (1998-2008). Three kinds of tunes ('kondylies', 'pidihtos' and 'sousta dance') were analyzed (84 melodies). 806 Instrumental and 79 vocal musical phrases (known as 'gyrismata') were found. 317 Musical phrases consist of smaller parts of other musical phrases. Musical analysis focused on analysis of the music and on analysis of the relationship between lyrics and music. The whole procedure of analysis lasted for five years. The basic structural "element" is the "structural cell". Cretan societies' characteristics and cultural identities can now be 'diagnosed' not only through the "discourse" of interlocutors (musicians, dancers, lyre-makers etc) but also through the musical analysis based on ethnographic material. Cell-structures can also be found on dance-analysis. Cell-structures can be proved an indicator of 'freedom' not only in the context of composition and recomposition of music but also in the context of societies.

Keywords: Musical analysis, music-lyrics-dance, "structural cell", Cretan society and its characteristics, cultural identity.