

PHD RESEARCH

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Culinary “heritagization” in Flanders between 1945 and 2000. A historical gastro-linguistic analysis - [Original

Title : *Culinaire vererfgoed in Vlaanderen tussen 1945 en 2000. Een historisch-gastro-linguïstische analyse*]

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My doctoral dissertation deals with the relationship between food and identity and investigates how “heritagization” contributes to this relationship. More specifically, I have investigated the relationship between culinary “heritagization” and identification processes in Flanders between 1945 and 2000. The research’s theoretical framework builds on the notion of heritagization as an intellectual process of appropriation in which interested parties with a varying ideological background and motivation confer new meanings upon certain aspects of material and intangible culture. This is done by means of a vocabulary that suggests a historical (authenticity, tradition, grandmother’s cooking) and/or geographical (geographical indications and *terroir*) anchorage.

The sources I selected are women’s magazines from a different ideological background : the rural/christian magazine *De Boerin/Bij de Haard/Eigen Aard* (*The Farmer Woman/ Around the Hearth/Own Nature*) the socialist magazine *De Stem der Vrouw* (*The Woman’s Voice*) and the commercial magazine *Het Rijk der Vrouw* (*The Woman’s Realm*). The methodology to which the sources were subjected, combines a quantitative predicate analysis on the one hand and a qualitative, close-reading on the other. The predicate analysis identified heritagization as a fragmented process where women’s maga-

zines mainly featured food preservation, feasts and *terroir*. Close reading, in turn, shows that heritagization strongly differs according to ideology, in which magazines’ appropriations of material and intangible food culture always contributed to identity and identification discourses. Heritagization contributed to Christian family values and agrarian politics in *De Boerin*, *Bij de Haard* and *Eigen Aard*; to women’s emancipation in *De Stem der Vrouw*; and to family values and connoisseurship in *Het Rijk der Vrouw*. Through this, the empirical analysis has allowed the development of two new analytical concepts in the field : heritagization moments and heritagization conflicts.