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Essay

...What unites us...

Every culture has its own specialities, what makes it unique and shows its mentality, it can be seen as well in national costumes. No matter that we are collecting information about geographically different countries, there can be found many similar things in costumes.

One of the most important common things in costumes is colour. Because of Estonia and Latvia are border countries, there are many similar things in them. As well as in Bulgaria, Turkey and other countries costume shows national identity and identification with certain place, the way they are living, their attitude to God and society. For example, red colour is common to Estonia, as well as to Bulgaria, making costume brighter and more unique. Turkish national costume is different from European, the colours are not so bright and modest, it is different in form, because their life style and traditions are not the same as European. In Baltic countries women used to wear long, wide skirt made from coarse material than shirt. Long skirt made women look taller and sleeker. Apron, which usually has special ornament, is one of the specific things for Bulgarians, Estonians and Latvians.

Because a part of Latvia historically has been a territory of Poland, there are many similar things in national costumes, for instance, colours. In Polish folk costumes dominate bright colours that symbolised the richness and beauty. The same as in Latvia, as well as in Poland every region has its own special costume. Symbolically the headpiece shows the status of girl- wreath from flowers or material for girls and headkerchief for married woman. Characteristic for the both countries are vertical lines. Blouses usually are made from line, which is from the Baltic region countries.

What is similar in Romanian and Latvian costumes are embroideries, what is characteristic for Slavonic countries. In both national costumes dominates bright colours- white, green, red and other. In Hungarian costume there can be seen flower ornament, as well as in Latvian costumes, that is not so common, but can be seen in some regional costumes.

Studying various national costumes of different countries, we can draw a conclusion, that costume shows belonging to specific place and cultural group, but there can be found many common elements. For example there are the same components- skirt, blouse, headpiece, apron and other specific elements. The colours are similar- bright. Men's wear has the same details- shirt, boots, belt, vest and headwear.

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