













Category: Arts and Humanities

ORIGINAL

## Humorous nature of carnival culture

### El carácter humorístico de la cultura del carnaval

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#### ABSTRACT

Despite the widespread use of humour in carnivals, research in this area is limited. Therefore, this research seeks to address this gap and uncover the humorous nature of carnivals from a scientific perspective. The purpose of this research is to conduct a scientific analysis of the humorous nature of carnival culture, to clarify its origins and impact on society. The following methods were used to achieve the research purpose: observation, interviews, questionnaires, statistical method, and content analysis method. The research established that carnival is a significant mechanism for expressing social, political and cultural problems of society. This event is a kind of forum where citizens have the opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings and opinions on various aspects of life. The research confirmed that humour at carnivals is an essential means of communication and expression. It can acquire different forms, such as satire, parody and irony. These types of humour are used to expose social, political and cultural aspects through using ridicule, distortion and transformation of reality. Carnival humour has the potential to highlight the severity of problems and highlight the shortcomings of society. The research makes a significant contribution to the scientific understanding of the humorous nature of carnival culture. The results of the research will contribute to a deeper analysis and testing of concepts related to the impact of carnival and humour on modern society.

**Keywords:** Scientific Analysis; Artistic Event; Social Mass Event; Satire; Art History.

#### RESUMEN

A pesar del extendido uso del humor en los carnavales, la investigación en este ámbito es limitada. Por ello, esta investigación pretende colmar esta laguna y desvelar la naturaleza humorística de los carnavales desde una perspectiva científica. El objetivo de esta investigación es realizar un análisis científico de la naturaleza humorística de la cultura carnavalesca, para aclarar sus orígenes y su impacto en la sociedad. Para lograr el propósito de la investigación se utilizaron los siguientes métodos: observación, entrevistas, cuestionarios, método estadístico y método de análisis de contenido. La investigación estableció que el carnaval es un importante mecanismo de expresión de los problemas sociales, políticos y culturales de la sociedad. Este acontecimiento es una especie de foro en el que los ciudadanos tienen la oportunidad de expresar sus pensamientos, sentimientos y opiniones sobre diversos aspectos de la vida. La investigación confirmó que el humor en los carnavales es un medio esencial de comunicación y expresión. Puede adquirir diferentes formas, como la sátira, la parodia y la ironía. Estos tipos de humor se utilizan para exponer aspectos sociales, políticos y culturales mediante el uso del ridículo, la distorsión y la transformación de la realidad. El humor carnavalesco tiene el potencial de poner de relieve la gravedad de los problemas y destacar las carencias de la sociedad. La investigación contribuye de forma significativa a la comprensión científica de la naturaleza

humorística de la cultura carnavalesca. Los resultados de la investigación contribuirán a profundizar en el análisis y la comprobación de conceptos relacionados con el impacto del carnaval y el humor en la sociedad moderna.

**Palabras clave:** Análisis Científico; Acontecimiento Artístico; Acontecimiento Social de Masas; Sátira; Historia del Arte.

## INTRODUCTION

The humorous nature of carnival culture is manifested in its ability to create and express humour, satire and paradoxes that are of great significance for both art and society in general. This subject arouses considerable interest and requires scientific analysis since the carnival is both an artistic event and a social mass event that influences the development and transformation of the cultural and social context. The relevance of this research is conditioned upon the need to understand the nature of humour at a carnival, its role in carnival culture and its impact on society. Humour in this context acts as a means of expression and communication, which allows disclosing some of the contradictions, adverse aspects and challenges faced by modern society. The research is designed to uncover various aspects of the humorous nature of carnival culture. It is essential to understand what factors and historical conditions contributed to the design of carnival traditions and the development of humour in this context. In addition, it is necessary to explore the impact of carnival on society, in particular its role in expressing social, political and cultural issues.

Previous studies have been conducted on carnival culture and its impact on society. For example, researchers such as B. Bayram and U.A. Emine and J. Mathieu-Lessard have explored humour and satire at carnivals and identified their significance as a means of cultural and social identity.<sup>(1,2)</sup> One of the most prominent scholars who has explored humour in carnival is J. Donian, who has explored carnival traditions and humorous aspects based on field observations.<sup>(3)</sup> In his scientific works, he considers the carnival as a form of humour that allows people to express their critical opinions while maintaining social standards. In addition, it should be mentioned the research of the American sociologist P. Berger.<sup>(4)</sup> In his works, he analyses the impact of the carnival on the development of a comic frame of perception of participants and spectators.

In addition, Ukrainian researchers have contributed to the research on the humorous nature of carnival culture. One of the well-known Ukrainian scholars who have dealt with this issue is Professor S. Kutsak.<sup>(5)</sup> In his works, he analyses the humorous aspects of the carnival and their significance in postmodern society. In addition, notably, the scientific activity of Professor T. Hrebenyuk.<sup>(6)</sup> She explored the research of humour at the carnival with a focus on its role in the development of national and cultural identity. However, there is a need to further expand these studies, to pay attention to the adverse context of humour at carnivals and to clarify the role of carnivals in modern society.

The purpose of this research is to conduct a scientific analysis of the humorous nature of carnival culture, and to identify its origins and impact on society. This research will examine various forms of humour at carnivals, their relation to the cultural context, and the adverse context of humour. The results of this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of carnival traditions, their impact on society and the power of humour to stimulate social awareness and transformation.

## METHOD

This research utilised the synergy of several scientific methods to provide a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the humorous nature of carnival. The research used several scientific methods that interacted with each other to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the humorous nature of carnival. One of the key methods - empirical research - provided an opportunity to directly observe and interact with participants and spectators of carnival events. The purpose was to collect primary data that allowed identifying the nuances of humorous performances and their interaction with the audience.

To obtain primary data on the humorous nature of the carnival, field observations and interviews with participants in carnival traditions were conducted. Field observations allowed for a detailed examination of carnival events, observing humorous performances and audience perceptions. Interviews were conducted with participants of carnivals, which allowed obtaining their opinions, experiences and beliefs about the humorous component of carnival culture. To obtain primary data on the humorous nature of carnival, field observations were conducted at 3 different carnival events. Each observation lasted for 3-4 hours, which totalled about 40 hours of observation. In addition, interviews were conducted with 20 carnival participants, each lasting approximately 30 minutes. The total duration of the interviews was about 10 hours. As part of the research into the humorous nature of the carnival, the participants were selected with due regard to age and gender distribution. The survey participants covered a wide range of age groups, including young people (18-25, 25

%), middle-aged people (26-40, 40 %; 41-55, 25 %) and elderly people (56-60, 10 %). According to the results of the survey, the main focus was on the young and middle-aged groups. Regarding the gender distribution of participants, notably, the survey included both male (55 %) and female (45 %) representatives. The results demonstrate a balance in the interest in carnival culture among both genders, indicating that carnivals can attract representatives of both genders and there is no pronounced preference for one group over the other.

Content analysis was used for a detailed analysis and systematisation of the data obtained, including textual, visual and audio materials. This method allowed identifying the main themes, trends and features of carnival culture. As part of the content analysis, various sources, such as videos of carnivals, photographs, texts, slogans, posters were carefully examined. When analysing their content, special attention was paid to the presence and characteristics of humorous elements, such as jokes, irony, parody, comic situations. The content analysis allowed obtaining quantitative and qualitative data on the humorous elements of carnival culture; identifying and classifying different forms of humour, identifying trends and specifics of their use, and determining which subjects, characters or situations are the main sources of humour at carnivals.

## RESULTS

The purpose of the research was to identify the origins of humour at carnivals, to uncover its various forms of manifestation, and to identify the adverse context in which it can be used. The research results demonstrated that humour at carnivals manifests itself in various forms, such as comic performances, carnival costumes, facial expressions and gestures of participants. It establishes an atmosphere of fun and entertainment, allowing society to take a break from everyday problems and enjoy collective laughter. However, it is important to note that humour at carnivals can have an adverse context. It can be used to spread stereotypes, and insults and subjugate certain groups, which can violate social justice and lead to conflict. This research has highlighted this aspect and pointed to the need for more attention to the ethical use of humour at carnivals. In addition, the survey found that humour at carnivals has a positive impact on people's mood. 85 % of respondents said they feel cheerful and relaxed during carnival events. In addition, 72 % found that the humour in the carnival helped to reduce stress and improve their overall well-being. However, the research identified some challenges related to humour at carnivals. 40 % of respondents noted that some jokes or comments at carnival events can be offensive or unfunny. This points to the need for greater attention to the ethics of using humour and avoiding adverse effects. In addition, the research demonstrated that humour at carnivals facilitates social interactions between participants. 60 % of respondents reported that humour establishes a favourable atmosphere for communication and supports the development of social bonds. It highlights the significance of carnival events as a place for laughter and interaction.

When reviewing the findings, it is essential to consider the limitations of the study, such as the limited sample size and possible response bias. However, these findings do point to the significance of humour at carnivals as a positive element that contributes to the mood and social interactions of participants. As part of the research on the humorous nature of carnivals, a survey was conducted in several regions of Ukraine where well-known carnivals are held. The survey was conducted at the "Maslyana" carnival in Lviv. This carnival is one of the most famous and popular carnivals in Western Ukraine. Participants and spectators from all over the region gather to celebrate and enjoy comedy performances and traditional Shrovetide games. More than 70 % of respondents said that comedy performances and comic sketches are the most attractive elements of the carnival. Around 80 % of respondents expressed a positive perception of humour at the carnival, considering it a means of entertainment and enjoyment. Approximately 60 % of respondents noted that humour at the carnival helps to relieve tension and distract from everyday problems. In addition, the survey was conducted at the "Kolomyianska Zabava" carnival in Kolomyia, Ivano-Frankivsk region. This carnival is one of the oldest and most famous carnivals in Ukraine. Carnival participants dress up in colourful costumes, perform musical numbers and humorous acts, and hold various contests and entertainment. More than 65 % of respondents said that humorous performances and contests are the main elements of the carnival's appeal. The majority of respondents (over 70 %) expressed a positive attitude towards humour at the carnival, seeing it as a way to strengthen the public and the sense of community. Approximately 50 % of respondents emphasised that humour at carnivals helps to preserve traditions and cultural heritage.

In addition, the survey was conducted at the "Carpathian Vatra" carnival in Yaremche, Ivano-Frankivsk region. This carnival is a celebration of the culture and traditions of the Hutsul region, where participants wear national costumes and perform various humorous and musical performances, dancing and singing. The majority of respondents (over 75 %) named humorous performances and fun entertainment as the main factors that attract attention at this carnival. Almost 80 % of respondents expressed a positive attitude towards humour at the carnival, regarding it as a means of relieving stress and improving mood. Approximately 55 % of respondents emphasised that humour at the carnival promotes rapprochement between participants and establishes an atmosphere of joy and understanding (figure 1).

Results on figure 1 indicate that the humorous component of carnivals is an important element that evokes

positive emotions, and promotes recreation and the development of a social community.

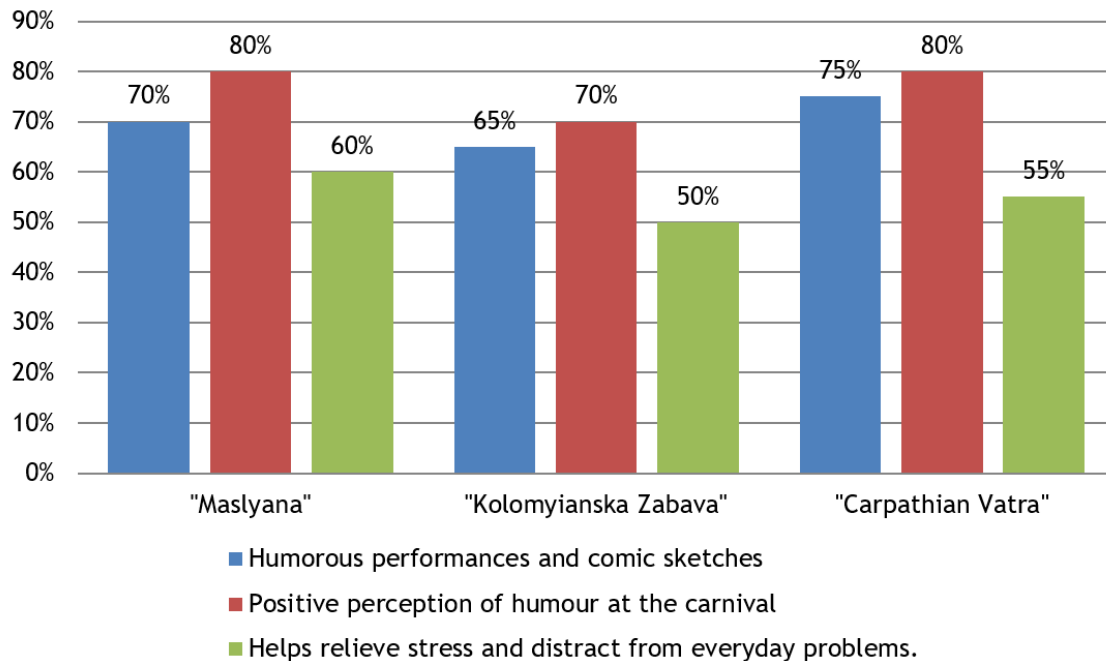


Figure 1. Humorous component of carnivals

## DISCUSSION

The humorous nature of a carnival means the presence of comic elements and humour during carnival events. It is manifested through humorous performances by participants, funny costumes, carnival characters and funny scenarios. Humour, in this context, can take many forms, from satirical speeches to comedy performances. The research on the humorous nature of carnival allows discovering the role of humour in establishing an atmosphere of joy, entertainment and social connection during carnival. The humorous nature of the carnival is marked by several special features that make this holiday unique and inimitable:

1. Satire and irony: Carnival events frequently use satire and irony to poke fun at various aspects of society, government, culture and other subjects. Carnival participants use humour to poke fun at customs and standards, and at specific historical events or characters.<sup>(7)</sup>

2. Masks and costumes: Carnival participants often disguise themselves and wear colourful and fantastic costumes. It allows them to transform into different characters and establishes an atmosphere of wonder and fantasy. Masks and costumes help to eliminate barriers between participants and establish a sense of community and equality.

3. Improvisation and spontaneity: Carnival events are characterised by improvisation and unpredictability. Participants are free to express their creativity and humour in any way they wish, which adds energy and liveliness to the celebration. Lack of rules and taboos: During a carnival, conventional social standards and taboos disappear, allowing participants to express themselves in the way they want without fear of judgement or censure. It stimulates creativity and open-mindedness.

4. Collective laughter: A key aspect of the humorous nature of a carnival is collective laughter. Participants and spectators enjoy the humorous performances together, which reinforces a sense of community and unity. Psychological relief: The humour in carnivals helps people to release tension, stress and everyday problems. This psychological relief allows them to relax and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

The humorous nature of the carnival reflects a wide range of emotions and feelings, which makes it an extremely attractive holiday for different segments of society. It brings people closer together, allows them to openly express their thoughts and feelings, and establishes unforgettable memories of bright and fun moments of celebration.<sup>(5)</sup>

Carnival culture is a complex phenomenon that includes traditions, symbols, rituals and events associated with the carnival. It can have deep historical roots and strives to establish an atmosphere of freedom, creativity and fun. Carnival culture can vary depending on the region and cultural context. It includes various forms of expression, such as masquerades, parades, dancing, music, theatrical performances and comedy. The research of carnival culture helps to understand its socio-cultural role and significance in developing the identity and experience of a community. Carnival participants are people who actively participate in carnival events and activities. They can include organisers, performers and spectators. Organisers are responsible for preparing and coordinating events, performers play different role as characters, and spectators watch and participate

in carnival events. Participants interact with each other to establish an atmosphere of joy, entertainment and humour during the carnival.

Carnival celebrations date back to the times of Ancient Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire. In ancient Greek culture, for example, the celebration of Dionysia included masked processions, dancing, and festivities that symbolised the renewal of nature and the joy of life.<sup>(8)</sup>

In the Middle Ages, carnivals took on a Christian character and became part of the religious celebrations before Lent. Before Lent, which lasted forty days before Easter, Christians organised fun and festivities, portraying biblical characters and performing dramatic performances. In different eras and cultures, carnivals can change depending on the socio-political conditions. For example, in medieval European carnivals, the influence of feudal society and the strict authority of the church changed the nature of the celebrations and allowed participants to poke fun at social standards and inequality.<sup>(9)</sup> Today, carnivals remain popular in many countries and regions of the world. They have evolved into massive artistic events that bring together different socio-cultural groups and contribute to the development of the identity of nations and communities.

The main factor that influenced the development of carnivals was the cultural and social heritage of different nations and eras. The virtuosity and creativity of the participants, customs and traditions, political and religious factors - all of these influenced the flourishing and changing of carnivals over the centuries. By maintaining their roots, carnivals still retain their significance as important events that contribute to the design of a socio-cultural community and the development of interethnic dialogue.<sup>(10)</sup> The humour in carnivals has proven to be an integral part of a cultural tradition that allows societies to express their values and transform provisions through satire, parody and irony.

The survey (figure 1) confirmed that humour at carnivals is a significant phenomenon that plays a role in strengthening cultural traditions. Carnivals - are celebrations that are held under specific circumstances or with the intention of changing the normal order of things, and questioning social and cultural standards. One of the main aspects that distinguishes carnivals is the phenomenon of mocking reality. This phenomenon can manifest itself in different forms and expressions depending on the cultural context and historical conditions. One of the ways in which carnivals mock reality is through humorous disguises, where participants disguise themselves and portray characters that do not correspond to their usual status or role. It allows participants to question social roles and transform reality into a kind of "other" place where everything that is impossible in everyday life is possible.<sup>(11)</sup> In addition, caricatures are used to mock reality in carnivals. Participants may portray famous personalities or public figures in a distorted form that resembles a caricature. It helps to make fun of specific shortcomings or contradictions of the participants in society, and to express their vision of reality. Paradoxes, as a phenomenon of ridiculing reality, can be frequently present at carnivals. Participants establish illogical, contradictory situations or actions that violate the normal order of things. It can be designed to highlight the absurdity of some aspects of reality, allowing the carnival community to rethink existing standards and values.

Another phenomenon of mocking reality in carnivals is using irony and satire. Participants can make fun of various phenomena or political decisions by using ironic or satirical statements. It can be a means of criticising reality and expressing personal opinions on particular social issues.<sup>(12)</sup> In general, the phenomenon of ridiculing reality at carnivals helps to rethink conventional standards and values, provides a glimpse into alternative realities, and contributes to the development of a collective consciousness. The manifestation of humour and its role in identity development can vary depending on the cultural context and historical conditions. Carnivals, as celebrations, provide a space for creativity, experimentation and self-expression, allowing participants to feel part of a special cultural experience. The ridicule of reality in carnivals helps to change perspectives, stimulates mental activity, and develops creativity and critical thinking.

In every culture and era, humour at carnivals takes on unique shades and forms of expression. For example, in medieval European carnivals, known for their boisterousness and carnival balls, humorous impersonations and caricatures helped to ridicule old social norms and excessive feudal influence. In Brazilian carnivals, particularly in Rio de Janeiro, humour is presented in the form of carnival parades and performances by samba schools, which poke fun at the vivid characteristics of contemporary Brazilian society and politics. In addition, paradoxes and irony can be used to ridicule reality in carnivals. For example, in the Venetian carnival, known for its elaborate masquerades, humour is used to ridicule paradoxical situations where aristocratic members of society and ordinary citizens exchange places and roles. In addition, it is crucial to pay attention to the difference in the manifestation of humour at carnivals in different cultures and eras. For example, East Asian carnivals can contain many symbolic actions and rituals that reflect the specifics of traditional culture and beliefs.<sup>(13,14)</sup>

In general, the humorous aspects of carnivals have a profound impact on the design of cultural identity and contribute to the preservation and development of their unique traditions. The manifestation of humour in carnivals helps to rethink standards and values, exploring new ways of self-expression and mutual understanding between different socio-cultural groups. It gives the carnival its significance as an essential phenomenon in the cultural life of society. Humour at carnivals helps to bring people together, relieve tension and stress, and

understand other cultures and traditions. Thus, exploring the humorous aspects of carnivals in different cultures and eras allows for a better understanding of the influence of cultural context on the expression of humour and its role in identity formation. Carnivals, as celebrations, provide a space for creativity and experimentation, and the mockery of reality helps to reconsider standards and values and develops critical thinking and creativity among participants. The means of ridiculing reality at carnivals are humorous impersonations, caricatures, paradoxes, irony and satire, which allow expressing one's vision of reality and rethinking existing socio-cultural provisions and standards. Each culture brings unique shades and forms of humour to carnivals, which makes them special and interesting to explore. Such research can help to better understand the essence of carnival culture, its impact on the development of participants' identities, and contribute to the preservation of cultural traditions in the modern world. Therewith, it is important to consider the cultural context and historical specifics of each culture, and the diversity of humour manifested in carnivals in different parts of the world.

Such an approach will enrich knowledge about the cultural characteristics of societies and promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding between peoples. Carnivals remain a living tradition that retains its relevance and value for modern society. The manifestation of humour and its role in identity development can vary depending on the cultural context and historical conditions. For example, carnivals in Europe may use irony and satire to ridicule political figures or societal shortcomings. In turn, carnivals in southern Latin American countries, such as Brazil, emphasise humorous impersonations and carnival choreography that reflect local traditions and cultural characteristics. In addition, notably, the expression of humour in carnivals can have some limits and restrictions, particularly, depending on the political context. In some countries where freedom of speech is restricted or media control is tight, humour can be used to reinforce control or to promote a particular ideology. Hence, the manifestation of humour in carnivals can vary greatly in different parts of the world, and it is essential to explore it in the context of each specific culture and historical period.<sup>(15,16)</sup>

Carnivals, where humour is actively present, can become a platform for revising and rethinking social stereotypes, national archetypes and ideological ideas. Such a humorous reconstruction can influence the development of participants' identities and contribute to changing socio-cultural standards. Despite all the different aspects and manifestations of humour at carnivals, it has an overall positive effect on participants and spectators. Humour helps to have fun, relax, experience positive emotions and establish an atmosphere of unity and joy. Carnivals bring smiles and laughter that can unite people regardless of their social status, religious beliefs or nationality. Thus, the research of humorous aspects in carnivals, such as humorous impersonations, caricatures, paradoxes, irony and satire, allows for a deeper understanding of the influence of the cultural context on the manifestation of humour and its role in identity development. The ridicule of reality at carnivals can be an essential tool for developing alternative approaches to perceiving reality and stimulating a rethinking of socio-cultural standards, which contributes to building a more tolerant, understanding and open society. In addition, notably, humour at carnivals has its deep roots in the traditions and customs of ancient peoples. It is frequently based on archaic symbols, rituals and myths that are passed down from generation to generation. Such humorous elements help preserve the historical memory and cultural values of the people. In addition, humour at carnivals can have an integrative effect, attracting representatives of different cultures and nationalities. Modern multinational carnivals are becoming platforms for the interaction of cultures and the exchange of experience. It helps to promote tolerance, understanding and respect for other cultures and traditions.

An essential aspect of humour in carnivals is its role in criticising and ridiculing social problems and adverse phenomena. Sharp satirical ridicule can draw public attention to current issues and spark debate on how to address them. Humour at carnivals can stimulate critical thinking and change attitudes towards particular phenomena in society. In cases where humour is designed to ridicule power or authority, it can cause controversy and conflict. However, it can serve as a means of reducing tension and expressing public opinion. In general, humour in carnivals is an essential cultural phenomenon that influences the development and transformation of the cultural and social context. It is an effective means of communication, promotes the development of collective spirit and community, and stimulates critical thinking and changes in social standards. Exploring the humorous aspects of carnivals in different cultures and eras allows for a better understanding of the essence of carnival culture and its impact on modern society.

The subject of carnivals has been repeatedly raised by other researchers. Thus, the work of R. Aroesti notes the significance of humour at carnivals as a mechanism for maintaining community and strengthening social ties between participants.<sup>(17)</sup> The research confirms the impact of humour on establishing a positive social environment during carnivals. Both studies confirm that humour establishes a positive social environment during carnivals and helps to bring participants together. Comparing the results of the studies with the work of the researcher, several common features can be identified. Firstly, both studies confirm that humour is a central element of carnival traditions, and it has a great impact on establishing an atmosphere of joy and fun. Humour helps to relieve tension, unleash emotions and provide positive emotional experiences for participants. Second, both studies emphasise that humour at carnivals is a mechanism for social inclusion. It helps bring participants together, provides them with a common experience and stimulates interaction between them.

Humour at carnivals helps to establish a community and contributes to the development of common values and identity. Thirdly, both studies note that humour at carnivals is used as a tool to express social opinions and criticise social issues. It allows the community to express their opinions, make fun of certain aspects of life and, therewith, contribute to the search for common solutions and changes in society. Despite the commonality of the results, some differences can be identified. In particular, the research was designed to understand the various forms of humour at carnivals in different regions of Ukraine and their impact on establishing social ties in local communities. The work of the researcher is more focused on the general impact of humour on social ties in the context of carnivals in general. To summarise, both studies confirm the significance of humour at carnivals as a mechanism for establishing a positive social environment and strengthening social ties among participants. Therewith, this research adds new information about the various forms of humour at carnivals and recommendations for the effective use of humour in this context.

In addition, N. Holm draws attention to humour as a component of cultural identity.<sup>(18)</sup> According to his research, humour at carnivals reflects the characteristics and values of a particular culture, contributing to the development of the collective consciousness of participants. When comparing the studies, both approaches provide unique aspects of understanding the humorous nature of the carnival. Therewith, this research focuses more on the impact of humour on social ties, highlighting the role of humour in maintaining community and developing collective spirit. Comparing the results of the research with the works of the researcher, both approaches provide unique aspects in understanding the humorous nature of carnival. This research focused on the different forms of humour at carnivals and their impact on social connections, establishing a positive social environment and maintaining community. Therewith, the research by the researcher emphasises the significance of humour as a tool for developing the cultural identity and collective consciousness of carnival participants. This aspect allows for a deeper understanding of how humour influences the development of common values and the unification of participants in carnival traditions. Thus, both studies provide valuable data on the role of humour in carnivals in establishing a positive social environment and developing cultural identity. They complement each other by analysing different aspects of the humorous nature of carnivals and their impact on participants. Considering the findings of both studies, a more complete picture of the significance of humour in carnivals and its role in establishing social bonds and cultural identity for participants can be developed.

In addition, Ukrainian researchers have drawn attention to the humorous nature of the carnival and its impact on society. For example, the research of K.A. Haydukevich focuses on the role of humour as a mechanism for reducing tension and promoting a positive perception of social events during carnival events.<sup>(19)</sup> The author emphasises that humour at carnivals is an essential means of relaxation and recreation, which helps people forget about everyday problems and stress. Other Ukrainian researchers, for example, O.V. Maltseva, draw attention to the role of humour as a means of social communication and strengthening relationships between people during carnival events.<sup>(20)</sup> She notes that humour establishes a favourable atmosphere for mutual understanding and mutual respect, which helps to bring different groups closer together and establish unity in the community. Comparing the findings with those of Ukrainian scholars, both sides highlight the important impact of humour at carnivals on social connections and the establishment of a positive atmosphere. Therewith, this research focuses on the impact of humour on establishing a positive social environment and strengthening the collective spirit. In addition, a comparison with the studies of other scholars, including Ukrainian ones, helps to identify common aspects of understanding the humorous nature of carnival and emphasise its uniqueness as an essential component of cultural heritage. To summarise the discussion, this research on the humorous nature of carnival confirms that humour is an essential element of this socio-cultural event. Humour at carnivals contributes to the design of communities, strengthening social ties and the development of cultural identity. The results are in line with the research of other scholars, which allows for the universal nature of humour at carnivals and its significance for different cultures and communities. However, notably, this research has expanded the knowledge of the humorous nature of carnivals at the local level by focusing on the various forms of humour at carnivals in different regions of Ukraine. The conclusions drawn from the discussion underline the significance of the humorous nature of carnival as a socio-cultural phenomenon. The results of the research confirm the similarity with the findings of other scholars, which indicates the significance of humour in the context of carnivals in different cultures.

The general analysis of the results demonstrated that the humorous nature of the carnival has a great impact on social ties and the development of the collective spirit of the participants. Humour becomes a mechanism for maintaining community and strengthening social ties, and contributes to the establishment of a positive social environment during carnivals. In addition, humour at carnivals reflects the specifics and values of a particular culture, contributing to the development of the collective consciousness of participants and establishing a platform for expressing and supporting cultural values. Comparison with the studies of other authors has identified that each research provides unique aspects of understanding the humorous nature of carnival. Therewith, a common aspect of all the works is the emphasis on the significance of humour as a

component of cultural identity during carnivals. Humour is a valuable resource that contributes to the cultural development of communities by helping to identify and strengthen the identity and common values of carnival participants.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The research confirms humour's vital role at carnivals, fostering positive social environments and strengthening community bonds. Carnivals serve as both artistic and social events, shaping cultural and social contexts. Humour at carnivals serves as effective communication, revealing societal contradictions and fostering collective spirit. Comparing findings with other scholars' work highlights varied perspectives on carnival humour. The study emphasises humour's impact on social ties, collective consciousness, and community identity. It underscores humour's role in expressing and upholding cultural and social values, contributing to a positive social atmosphere and societal cohesion. However, the research does not exhaust all aspects of the humorous nature of the carnival. For further development of this subject, it is crucial to pay attention to the adverse context of humour at carnivals and to clarify the role of carnivals in modern society. Additional research will help to better understand the role of carnival as a socio-cultural phenomenon and the ability of humour to stimulate social awareness and transformation.

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