

Abstract

In my thesis I am analyzing the social effects of the red sludge disaster which happened on 4th October 2010 in the area of Devecser city. The research was done with the life-story interview method in two data gathering periods. The first period was between November 12 and 27, 2010, the second between August 22 and November 13, 2013. Based on the interviews with the aggrieved people of the red sludge disaster, I am using a comparative analysis with regard to the individual trauma coping to present the changes which took place in the three years after the disaster.

During the structural and contextual analysis of the interviews, I am looking for the answer to the following question: *how do the different social relationships contribute to the individual trauma coping after a disaster of such a magnitude as the red sludge flow?*

I consider the most important result of my research the fact that the family appears as the primary community with regard to the success of the individual trauma coping. The development of the renewed home attachment was considerably helped by moving into an already functional neighborhood, therefore the aggrieved people who bought used houses in Devecser have the strongest attachment to their new living quarter, which helps them to cope the incident too. The people who chose to live in the newly built subdivision miss the stable neighborhood community, and the coping of the trauma is set back by the fact that we can consider both the new subdivision and the memorial park as a *lieu de mémoire*.

The raptures that can be observed in the local community of the whole city are making the individual and collective trauma coping even harder. These can be interpreted on three levels: between 1) aggrieved – not aggrieved, 2) gipsy – not gipsy, 3) aggrieved – aggrieved inhabitants.

As a summary it can be said that the individual coping is strongly set back by the loneliness, lack of communication and the loss of community (on different levels), but on the other hand it is assisted by the experience of integration. This was supported by the experience of the huge social alliance created by the presence of the civil volunteers after the disaster, by being in an intact neighborhood and, most important of all, the proper family background.