

Abstract: The article focuses on nonverbal greetings as illocutionary mechanisms, producing various interactional effects such as gratification or social bonds. Our analysis is based on a Romanian corpus (chronicles, memoirs, ceremonial literature), from the seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. One can state that a part of the Romanian society manifests propensity for intercultural appropriation (Kádár forth.), i.e. for the adoption of a set of rituals belonging to another society, while making sure that the adopted rituals are inter/culturally adequate. The corpus points out the possibility to discern the adequate behaviour adopted from another culture according to the interlocutor, to the interpersonal relationship, as well as to the goals of the performer. Studying the intercultural appropriation and the ritualization that could emerge in interaction within a new cultural setting reveals both the complexity of the intercultural contact and the historical sociopragmatic characteristics of a ritual (Kádár forth.). In intercultural interactions, when the linguistic code is not shared by the participants, gestural performativity seems to prevail in Romanian.

Keywords: intercultural appropriation, ritual, ritualization, conventionalization, deference.