

Some Remarks about Linguistic Expressions in Writings about Ethnicity and Conflict: The Case of Yugoslavia

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The paper suggests that the extensive and frequently controversial literature about the 1990s Yugoslav crisis can be viewed as an opportunity for reflection on the discourse itself. The article examines the role of ethnonyms and some related linguistic expressions used in scholarly and other writings about the demise of Yugoslavia. The examination has shown that the linguistic simplifications covering different social groups with umbrella expressions such as *the Croats, the Serbs*, etc. may constitute a source of puzzlement and even inaccuracy. It is argued that ethnic studies in general would gain much by paying more attention to nuances than by relying on ethnonyms as if they were clear-cut concepts. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2011 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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