ABSTRACT

The present study reviews research papers concerning the role of football clubs in the creation and development of ethnic / national identity by minority groups within the context of a state. The aim of the paper is to determine new directions concerning the development of national identity through football. In particular, through the review of papers concerning the football clubs of Croatians in Australia, of Northern-Ireland Catholics, of Jews in Shanghai and of Italians in the USA it is shown that the minorities' football clubs contribute to the creation of ideas and behaviors that refers to an ethnic or national group and that the existence of the "other part" is a prerequisite to this process. In addition, the need of the historical research to study the internal structure of the football clubs and their function, as well as their relationship with other institutions is revealed.

Key words: Soccer club, Ethnic Identity, National Identity.