

## **DAREJAN SIRIA**

### **ETHNIC AND NATIONAL IDENTITY**

The paper deals with ethnic and national identity. The issue of personal linguistic identity emerges strongly in relation to questions of ethnicity and nationhood. Questions of ethnicity are closely related to those of national identity.

Perhaps the most widely encountered symbol of emerging nationhood is language.

Political entities that comprise a homogeneous national group are quite rare. The clearest case of a language fulfilling the need to define a national identity in modern times is Hebrew. Classical Hebrew provides direct evidence of the linguistic unification of the heterogeneous population.

The problem arises when non-written languages or languages of some ethnic groups require an alphabet. Historical, social, political, religious and other consideration may affect the choice of which kind of alphabet to adopt.

The common language and written system for all ethnic groups living in one country determine national identity of this country.