

Astrology, as perceived by Romanians

~ Past and Present ~

by

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November 14, 2015

IAW101 Introduction to Academic Writing

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Japan Campus

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I. Introductory Paragraph

Background information: About astrology – A brief description of astrology and how it works

Transitional Expressions (Definition, Process)

Topic Sentence: Some Romanian people are actually conducting their lives upon their perception of astrology.

Transitional Expression (Cause and Effect)

II. First Supporting Paragraph

A. Main Point (Subtopic): In the present, astrology is perceived as a tool to guide the individual toward success and fulfillment

1. Supporting Detail: Young people use astrology in order to find their true vocation

2. Supporting Detail: Businessmen use astrology in order to find the best day for starting a new business

3. Supporting Detail: Couples use astrology in order to find the best day to get married

B. Transitional Expression (For example, Likewise, Moreover)

III. Second Supporting Paragraph

A. Main Point (Subtopic): In the past, astrology was mainly perceived as a tool to predict the future

1. Supporting Detail: Kings and noblemen made decisions based on what astrology had to say about their destiny

2. Supporting Detail: Important events, such as marriage and the age an individual would reach success were predicted using astrology

3. Supporting Detail: Mundane events such as wars and natural disasters were also predicted using astrology.

B. Transitional Expressions (For instance, Similarly, More importantly, Cause and Effect)

IV. Third Supporting Paragraph

A. Main Point (Subtopic): In the present, astrology is perceived as a tool to give spiritual meaning to life

1. Supporting Detail: Some people use astrology to know about their purpose in life

2. Supporting Detail: Some people use astrology to understand the spiritual reasons behind painful events that took place in the past

3. Supporting Detail: Some people view astrology as a tool to understand God

B. Transitional Expressions (For example, Furthermore, Finally, Opinion sentence)

V. Conclusion (Summary)

In summary, Romanian people have perceived astrology slightly differently before and now, yet they have continued to admire its insights over the time. Thus, because at first, they believed that astrology was useful in predicting the future, they were conducting their lives upon predictions about their future. Nowadays however, they believe that astrology is useful in a spiritual way to understanding oneself and one's life missions.

All in all, astrology in the present continues its slow development, hoping to further enrich people's lives.

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The word *astrology* comes from the Latin word *astrologia*, which originates from the Greek *astron*, meaning "star" and *-logia*, meaning the "study of". Astrology is therefore, as the astrologer Kelli Fox explains, "an ancient and complex system based on careful observation of the position and movement of the stars, used to better understand human nature and life". (Fox, 2015) Astrology uses a diagram representing the positions of many celestial objects like the Sun, Moon and the planets, at the moment an individual was born. This diagram can be obtained using the following process. First, you will need an astrological software. Next, the software will ask for your day, month and year of birth. Then, it will also ask for the precise hour of your birth. In addition, the place of birth will be needed as well. As a result, according to the information provided, the computer will show you the diagram with the placement of the stars at the exact moment of your birth. Depending upon the question asked, the astrologer will try to interpret this diagram and look for possible answers. This method have been used for years, and the insights astrology had to offer have always fascinated the Romanian people, to the point that some of them are actually conducting their lives upon their perception of astrology.

For instance, in the present, astrology is perceived as a tool to guide the individual toward success and fulfillment. For example, young people use astrology in order to find their true vocation. Likewise, businessmen use astrology to find the best day for starting a new business. Moreover, enamored couples use astrology in order to find the best day to get married, hoping for a long-lasting relationship.

On the other hand, in the past, astrology was mainly perceived as a tool to predict the future. For instance, kings and noblemen made personal decisions based on what astrology had to say about their destiny. Similarly, important events, such as marriage and the age an individual would reach success were predicted using astrology. More importantly, mundane events such as wars and natural disasters were also predicted using astrology. However, because astrology was claiming that the events in an individual's life were fated and unavoidable, people have eventually grown dissatisfied with this negative approach. They have started to feel that life had more to offer. Hence, they have begun to think that the destiny was not written in the stars, that the individual had free will and the possibility to avoid future negative events.

Dr.K.Sri Dhammanada (2002) states the following:

A new-born baby is like a seed. It contains within itself all the ingredients which will make it a similar, yet completely different individual from all its fellow human beings. How its potential is developed depends, like the seed, on the kind of nurture it receives. The nature of a man is born within him, but his own free will determines whether he will make really good use of his talents and abilities. Whether he will overcome his potential for vice or weakness depends on how he is trained in his youth. If we recognize our nature--our tendency towards laziness, irritability, worries, frustrations, wickedness, cunningness, jealousy--we can take positive steps to overcome them. The first step in solving problems is to recognize them for what they are. Astrological interpretations indicate our inclinations and tendencies. Once pointed out, we must take the necessary steps to chart our lives in a manner that will make us useful citizens of the world. Even a person with criminal tendencies can become a saint, if he recognizes his nature and takes steps to lead a good life. (p. 417)

Consequently, they have adopted the idea of the stars influencing people's lives, while people had the free will to take or not advantage of their influence. The effect of this idea had perhaps been the birth of spiritual astrology.

In the present therefore, astrology is perceived as a tool to give spiritual meaning to life. For example, because of feelings of worthlessness, some people use astrology to know about their purpose and missions in life. Furthermore, some people use astrology to understand the spiritual reasons behind painful events that took place in the past. Stephen Arroyo (1992), astrologer, states that “it's not particularly important that one has some degree of trouble with love affairs or relationships. The important thing is to know what the experience signifies in the larger scope of our conscious growth, what it can teach us, and what its purpose is” (p. xiv). He further mentions he sees his work with clients as that of a counselor, someone who points others in the direction of seeing the deeper meanings of their life experience, a function which he believes should be one of the primary purposes of any astrologer's work (p. 241). Finally, some people view astrology as a tool to understand God. Clement of Rome in *Recognitions* (n.d.) sees the stars in the sky as placed there by God, in order to remember God of the before, now and then. (Parkers, n.d., p. 39) In other words, it is believed that God has probably put the stars in the sky to map the events in people's lives and to observe the way people react to these events. Based upon all these perceptions of astrology before and now, some Romanians believe that understanding oneself is crucial in order to become able to fulfil one's mission in life and, therefore, please God.

In summary, Romanian people have perceived astrology slightly differently before and now, yet they have continued to admire its insights over the time. Thus, because at first, they believed that astrology was useful in predicting the future, they were conducting their lives upon predictions about their future. Nowadays however, they believe that astrology is useful in a spiritual way to understand oneself and one's life missions.

All in all, astrology in the present continues its slow development, hoping to further enrich people's lives.

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