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Indigenous Economy and Knowledge for Production in the Pume People.

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the economic practices of the Pume people of Venezuela, interpreting them not only as subsistence strategies, but also as a system of ancestral knowledge and an act of cultural resistance to the homogenizing pressures of the modern economy. The objective was to understand the deeper meanings, symbolic structures, and political dimensions of Pume productive practices, revealing their role in identity affirmation and the defense of autonomy. Hermeneutic bibliographic research was employed, based on a dialogue between the researcher's horizon and that of the texts (ethnographies, critical theory). The process involved interpretive analysis within a "hermeneutic circle" to merge horizons and reveal underlying cultural and political meanings. Regarding the Results: The analysis reveals that the Pume economy is a complex system that merges ecological efficiency and a relational ontology of reciprocity with nature (Ottenberg + Escobar). Its exchange practices embody an economy "embedded" in society, opposed to market logic (Polanyi). This economy functions as both every day and infrapolitical resistance (Scott) and a conscious project of autonomy (Burguete Cal y Mayor). The tension between the validity of this moral economy and the pressure for its commodification is discussed, as well as the risk of romanticizing resistance while ignoring power asymmetries, and the limits and potential of intercultural hermeneutics for interpreting Indigenous realities. The conclusion is that the Pume economy is the core of their identity-based resistance and a manifestation of crucial knowledge that challenges dominant economic paradigms. Its principles of sustainability and reciprocity emerge as a relevant and necessary alternative for rethinking post-capitalist futures.

Keywords: Economy, Indigenous, knowledge, production, Pume people.

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