A tattoo is one of the forms focused on modifying and decorating the body. These practices have been known and employed all over the world since the beginning of civilization. These were connected to a large extent to the social and cultural characteristics, and were an important element of the world of activities and ideas of former communities.

The etymology of the word “tattoo” comes from the group of Polynesian languages - "tatau" ("ta" translated as "to hit"). The process or technique of tattooing, creating a tattoo, involves the insertion of pigment into the skin’s dermis with the use of special tools - initially with cactus spines, animal bones, and with time wooden or metal needles. Due to the durability of the resulting ornaments, it is one of the permanent ways of decorating and marking the body. There are several well-known methods for creating patterns on the skin, including pricking and scraping [1,8]

Throughout history, the tattoo has served many functions, including therapeutic, aesthetic, magical-ritual or social: “[...] as a result of changes, the body became a medium or a map of identity, from which his fellow man could read who he was dealing with, what was the life story of this man” [2].

In the cultures of pre-Columbian Peru, we can distinguish several sources presenting the practices of body tattooing, including patterns on pottery products, which constitute an extremely numerous group. It is worth noting that the ornaments depicted on ceramics, as well as textiles or calabashes, belong to indirect - supplementary evidence: a type of source that indicates the use of ornaments on bodies in the culture that produced it. Nevertheless, we do not know whether it concerns painting or tattooing [4].

It seems that the phenomenon of tattooing was typical of the pre-Columbian coast of Peru, as evidenced by the numerous and varied ceramic products. Nevertheless, the greatest variety and quantity are found in the Moche (northern coast of Peru) and Nasca (southern coast of Peru) cultures.

We can find ornaments on prehispanic pottery in anthropomorphic figurines, portrait ceramics and iconography, usually in figural scenes.

The tattoos most often show geometric patterns (circles, lines, dots) and zoomorphic motifs (snakes, birds, etc.). They are usually placed on the face, arms, legs and in the genital area in the case of female performances, the so-called ‘Venus of Nasca’.