

## **Features of ethnic identity on the Northern territories of Krasnoyarsk Krai (Central Siberia) on material of field research of 2010-2016**

Issues of identity are among the major ones in the humanities and social sciences. A man as a social being needs to belong to a group and feel this belonging. One of the consistently popular identities over the centuries has been the ethnic identity. Ethnic identity is socially constructed and fluid which involves a sense of self-identification with an ethnic group, a sense of commitment and belonging, and social participation and practices. However, its popularity does not mean that the ethnic identity can be easily defined or that it is immutable. On the contrary, there are incessant discussions about the nature of ethnicity, about the process of its identification, etc.

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the indigenous peoples of the North faced the problem that the criteria of their ethnic identity ceased to be obvious, traditional and inviolable as before. The representatives of the indigenous peoples were actively involved into the process of discussion of what constitutes their identity and what it means to be “indigenous”. Enunciation and transmission of ideas about the features of the indigenous peoples, their relations with the non-indigenous world are the processes which draw not only the representatives of the indigenous peoples themselves, but also political and public figures, academic and journalist community, artistic intelligentsia.

In the present thesis the processes of constructing the ethnic identity by different actors are viewed as discursive. To achieve this goal, the thesis outlines the basic concepts of discourse by different authors and their opinions about features of discourse analysis. Also there is a brief analysis of the studies of ethnic discourse. In this work, the notion of what it means to be “indigenous” will be considered through the prism of discourse analysis.

In addition, the thesis constructs an understanding of the characteristics of the indigenous discourse, sounded by the representatives of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North. In addition, the author studied the image of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North in Russian film industry, meaning the shift to studying the indigenous discourse broadcast by non-indigenous sources. Finally, the thesis deals with determining which of the two indigenous discourses (articulated by the indigenous peoples of the North or in the mainstream cinema) is more influential. The thesis is based on such techniques as interviewing, associative analysis, philosophical analysis, art criticism, narrative analysis, and other methods. The respondents were the representatives of indigenous peoples of the North of the Krasnoyarsk Territory (Krai) (the Selkups, the Nenets and Dolgan Peoples, the Kets, and the Yessey Yakuts), and Krasnoyarsk students, too.