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Classical and Contemporary Approaches to Ethno-Cultural Studies. The Kernel of Ethnos

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This scientific article is devoted to one of the most urgent problems in modern humanities which is the problem of conceptual and methodological bases of ethno-cultural studies. Basic notions are “ethnos”, “ethnicity” and “kernel of ethnos”. In modern foreign literature, the notion of ethnos is considered in various aspects, such as “non-ethnic groups”, “symbolic ethnicity”, “multi-ethnicity”, “dual ethnicity” and “quasi-ethnicity” that are new to Russian science.

Under the conditions of globalization the strengthening of the processes of ethnic identification and self-identification is a reaction to the acculturation processes occurring on an incredibly large scale.

Most scientists agree that belonging to a particular ethno-cultural group must include three aspects: language, religion and processes of identification and self-identification. These basic variables can be used in determining so-called “kernels of ethnos” – a relatively stable system of variables, which has increased stability in the process of acculturation.

These approaches are effective for the study of indigenous and small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East living in the united Krasnoyarsk Territory. Siberian Federal University has a number of research programs supported by grants, where indigenous and small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East are studied from the viewpoint of global transformations typical of these peoples in the 21st century.

Keywords: Ethnos, ethnicity, ethnic identification, indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, kernel of ethnos, ethno-cultural applied research.

The work was supported by the Federal Target Program “Research and teaching personnel of innovative Russia 2009-2013”. Measure 2.1. “Research supervised by a Doctor of Science”. Project “Indigenous and small-numbered peoples of the North in the context of global transformations. Foresight study until 2050 by the example of the Yakut ethnic group”.

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