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**Identity politics of Kazakhstani Koreans**

**(Cultural anthropological approach)**

**ABSTRACT**

Traditionally, anthropology has attempted communications with other world and pursued self-reflections constantly. In the situation that global village became smaller by compressed space-time, the boundary of a state that have been believed as a unified, independent, and separated space was weakened, new terminologies were come into being such as globalization, trans-nationalism, and postmodernism.

Goryeoin as minor ethnic group are easily seen as a homogeneous community. Unlike defining Goryeoin as the homogeneous russianized Koreans in the existing researches, the Goryeoin have suffered from deep-seated schism among diverse inner groups, and from renewal pain of fitting for citizens in new independent country. Futhermore they spurted despair and resentment to motherland and made noise with homeland Koreans in Kazakhstan.

The study intends to interpret the significance and value of Goryeoins’ lives by exploring inner dynamic and diverse cultural topography. Based on conducting field work in their activity sphere, attempting to communicate with them will provide important clues for the future research and understanding them

The study establishes following tasks so as to identify the dynamic identity politics of Goryeoin as an ethnic minority in the new external conditions of the Soviet dissolution and Kazakhstani independence: 1) To discuss theoretical background of terms on ethnos, nation and diaspora, and cultural-anthropological methodology with the conduct of fieldwork: participatory observations; in-depth interviews; informal interviews; 2) To examine the settlement history of immigrant Korean as an ethnic minority, and then identify limitations and positions in the host society according to the social change; 3) To explore the historical process of Goryeoin migrants’ identity formation, and then examine the inner variety and differentiation process of the group; 4) To represent Goryeoin narratives, and interpret and analyze their cultural significance from experiences and memories.

To explore the dynamics and fluidity of identity in Kazakhstani Goryeoin, the study analyzed Goryeoin’s narratives represented and interpreted by their memories and experiences through the researcher’s participatory observation and informal interviews.

Beyond the previous superficial studies on Goryeoin society that stayed at utilizing document-based data or questionnaire survey, this study provides scientific novelties and originality analyzing the inner depths of Goryeoin society through anthropological research.

This study results showed the identifying process as the “site of struggle” making conflicts and divisions, achieving harmony, and compromising among them with continuously construction and reconstruction by different experience, memory and sentiment.