

Features of the linguistic situation in a transboundary region

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Abstract. The language situation in a transboundary region depends on which languages function on its territory, their role in communication, and their functions. In recent years, academic interest in analyzing and describing linguistic situations in transboundary regions is increasing. However, since there are transboundary regions with a monoethnic composition of the population, the essence of the language situation in this case can be defined as performing the functions of all existing forms of language existence in all environments and spheres of social activity under certain social conditions of a given people. In this paper, the author considers the linguistic situation in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and attempts to determine the significance of using Russian as the language of international communication in the transboundary regions of the Russian Federation.

Keywords: linguistic situation, language, language environment, communication, population

1. Introduction

The object of our research is the linguistic situation in a transboundary region using the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) as an example. Therefore, the question arises of studying the language environment that surrounds the population of a given region in everyday life, about the influence of this environment on their speech activity and about the process of formation and development of bilingualism. Based on this, the linguistic situation must be considered based on the study of acts of speech and those conditions in which they are carried out. In this case, as noted by several researchers [2; 3; 4], it is necessary to take into account that the language environment has a learning potential and can perform various functions: motivational (create motives for natural speech activity and learning); communicative (include people in communication in the target language); accelerative (to accelerate and facilitate the process of mastering the language and culture).

Therefore, the applied aspect of language learning is important for solving the problems of language teaching (native and non-native). After all, studying and taking into account the peculiarities of the linguistic situation helps to avoid many additional difficulties in the social, economic, and cultural, educational spheres.

2. Materials and Research Methods

The main research methods are theoretical (study of works on psychology, didactics, sociology, sociolinguistics); socio-pedagogical (analysis of curricula and statistics in the aspect of the problem under study).

3. Results

Industrialization, intensive commercial development of the region, features of the state-political structure of the Soviet and post-Soviet periods, pivotal transformations of the entire social system, modernization of society and economy, significant changes in sociodemography, directly influencing the establishment of a new language balance in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), have affected the dynamics of linguistic situation. After the collapse of the USSR, the population of Yakutia acquired a clearly pronounced tendency to decrease: after the closure of enterprises, qualified specialists and workers left; part of the working-age population and people of retirement age left for their historical homeland, outside Yakutia.

At the present stage, there is an influx of population in the republic as a whole and in the cities in particular due to internal migration - the resettlement of the rural indigenous population (Yakuts) to the urban area. According to the data of the Territorial Body of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), it was found that rural residents move to urban settlements due to poor housing conditions in the village, lack of work, and the desire to give children a good education.

Since 2006, when the number of migrants arriving to work from outside the republic for the first time exceeded the counter-flow by 958 people, there is still a high flow of external migration [5].

According to the latest census, 949 thousand people reside on the territory of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Low-numbered peoples of the North (Evenkis, Evens, Chukchi, Yukagirs, Dolgans) live compactly in places where industrial development and mining of minerals and precious metals are intensively carried out - Neryungri, Aldan, Ust-Maisky, Mirninsky districts. Yakuts (Sakha) are settled in the agricultural areas of the republic and are engaged in traditional farming.

The modern linguistic situation in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) has its own characteristics, due to the fact that there are two state languages (Russian and Yakut), five official (Evenk, Even, Yukaghir, Chukot, Dolgan) and one working (English) languages in the republic. According to the results of the last census, the number of people who speak Russian is 884,412, Yakut language - 443,312, Evenk - 1,341, Even - 3,755, Dolgan - 104, Chukchi - 334, Yukagir - 344 people. Thus, according to statistics, more than 93% of the population speaks Russian, while Yakut speaks less than 50%, and about 1% of the population speaks the languages of the indigenous minorities of the North. There is a process of linguistic shift among the small peoples of the North towards the Russian language.

Due to demographic, social and cultural factors, language integration has taken place in the republic and in this connection a diverse language environment has developed. In the linguistic situation of the republic are noted:

1. Monolingualism, which is common in areas where the population lives mostly compactly, with large ethnic groups, less often with small groups or villages among the general population;
2. Bilingualism, which is locally limited and common in areas where people of different nationalities live in the neighborhood;
3. Multilingualism, which is typical for cities and towns with a multinational composition of the population.

Numerous languages functioning on the territory of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), as a rule, are not closely related. Language differences are often so great that they exclude mutual understanding between ethno-linguistic groups. The data of sociolinguistic studies indicate that the influence and distribution of languages functioning in Yakutia are not uniform historically and in scale. Much here depends on the

nature of bilingualism, i.e. on which languages are in contact in a given territory – closely related or not closely related, and also on the degree of proficiency in these languages. The interaction and mutual influence of different cultures, ethnic mosaic, originality and inconsistency of the ethnocultural and social environment, characteristic of the republic, leave their mark on the language processes.

The core of the whole multinational society of Russia is the Russian language, which forms a common civil, cultural, and educational space.

The Russian language in Yakutia for about four hundred years is the language of interethnic communication and performs the fundamental role of the state language. At the beginning of the 20th century, A.E. Kulakovsky, the founder of the Yakut literature, wrote that the Russian language is the only means of familiarizing the Yakut people with Russian and world culture.

The peculiarity of the functioning of the Russian language in the republic is largely determined by the fact that the Yakut language, having a rather rich written tradition, performs all public functions and serves many spheres of public life. It provides training in national (Yakut) schools. Yakut language is the language of theater, print, radio, film, television. It publishes scientific and fiction literature. Along with the Yakut in all spheres of the socio-political, cultural and scientific life of the republic operates the Russian language. As a means of communication, it is used in correspondence with other institutions of the Russian Federation, it hosts meetings, conferences, etc. In addition, the Russian language is used in the media, the sphere of education, etc.

The concept of a foreign language in relation to the territory of Yakutia is filled with new content. It testifies to national and linguistic diversity within a transboundary region. Consequently, the need to master the Russian language at school stems both from the factor of national-Russian bilingualism and from the presence of multilingualism. Today, bilingualism has become a stable social phenomenon in other regions of our state, where the native language along with Russian functions as a second state language (models: native / ethnic language – Russian; native / Russian – ethnic language).

However, due to the prevailing historical, social and economic circumstances, national-Russian bilingualism is not the only (and main) type of bilingualism here, as the trend of early learning of foreign languages, in particular English, is increasing, which provides children and their parents with additional opportunities in terms of education and life prospects (models: native / Russian - foreign language; native / ethnic language - foreign language).

In addition, in recent years due to the migration processes, the problem of teaching the Russian language to foreign children has appeared (the native / ethnic language model is Russian).

Bilingualism and multilingualism are also relevant among the indigenous minorities of the North, for whom it is very important to revive and preserve their native languages. In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), representatives of indigenous minorities have historically formed a system of language practice (model native / ethnic language - Yakut language - Russian).

Thus, the functioning of such models of language education indicates a positive bilingualism and multilingualism, which has a beneficial effect on the development of the individual with the obligatory preservation of its linguistic and cultural identity.

4. Discussion

The last decades have been marked by changes in the sociocultural situation in many countries and transboundary regions in connection with the activation of migration processes, which is reflected in all spheres of human activity, including the education system. Today, the educational environment in many countries is characterized by multiculturalism, bi- and multilingualism [6]. We believe that the linguistic situation in Yakutia is a consequence of the motley picture of the contacting of peoples and languages in the territory of a transboundary region. Studying the Russian language as a means of communication expands cognitive activity, enriches the communicative sphere. Owning the Russian language, the

population of the republic solves all the problems associated with the process of communication, satisfies all the basic vital, social and cultural needs.

5. Conclusion

Bilingualism as a phenomenon characteristic of Russian regions and foreign countries is of great interest among representatives of various scientific fields. In modern pedagogical science, research on bilingualism is conducted in different directions: the organization of bilingual education, methods of teaching the second (non-native) language (for all levels of education), methods of teaching foreign languages (for all levels of education), training of migrants, professional and pedagogical training of teachers.

In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), with the Yakut-Russian bilingualism characteristic of the region, there is a bilingual education system, which implies the practice of teaching in two languages at once – Yakut and Russian.

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