

*Materials of Conferences***FEATURES OF PLACING AND TYPOLOGY OF ETHNOCONTACT ZONES OF THE NORTH CAUCASUS**

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Northern Caucasus is a special, complicatedly-organized space that is populated by multiple and various in ethnic-cultural, religious, and civilization aspects nations, and history of their introduction into Russian civilization is extremely complex and contradictious. As a result, an importance of developing research of spacial-temporal peculiarities of ethnic-cultural relations within the region is great.

In this case revelation and typology of ethnocontact zones (ECZ) becomes significant. Outlining ECZ of the Northern Caucasus is possible with usage of the index of ethnic mosaic (Eckel, 1976) that shows their «complication» degree. Index of ethnic mosaic is calculated at the level of administrative regions and capital centers of administrative-political subjects of the Northern Caucasus considering all ethnic groups that has been living on their territory in 1926 and 2002 with a share of more than 0,15 of the total population. It allows us to reveal general ECZ of the Northern Caucasus and their dynamics.

At the foundations of empiric searches, A.G. Manakov (2002) has established two classes of ECZ: faintly-expressed (index of ethnic mosaic from 0,2 to 0,4) and highly-expressed (index of ethnic mosaic more than 0,4). In Northern Caucasus, in accordance to utmost indications of the index of ethnic mosaic, according to the data of All-Russian population census of 2002, a bigger part is represented by ECZ, and almost half of them are highly-expressed.

In a sub-latitude direction a mirror symmetry is registered in alterations of the index of ethnic mosaic. In flat regions of Pre-Caucasus a growth in the index of ethnic mosaic goes from west to east, and in mountainous area it goes from east to west. A limited number of nations remains relatively homogenous in their ethnics. In flat areas they include administrative districts of Krasnodar region within Azov-Kuban plain, and also laying by western territories of Stavropol region. The second aerial of relatively homogenous in ethnic aspect regions is registered in mountainous territories of North-Caucasus republics, including Inner Dagestan, Chechnya republic, Republic of North Ossetia – Alania, and, in a slighter degree, eastern regions of Karachaevo-Cherkessia (Karachaevskiy and Malokarachayeviskiy districts) and western territories of Kabardino-Balkaria (Zolsk and Baksansk districts).

Stationed highly-expressed ECZ that preserve their state from the beginning of the XX century formed at coasts of Black and Kaspian seas. The widest line of ECZ has sub-latitude spread, it has stretched along pre-mountainous plains from Taman peninsula to Primorsk lowland of Kaspian sea. Also, two curves of ECZ of sub-meridian direction. The basis of the first of them, the most powerful one, are Ingushetiya and Prigorniy district of North Osetiya, it continues to the middle flow of Terek, on Tersko-Kumskaya lowland, further it stretches and gradually fades in North-West direction, along the axis of Kumo-Manychskaya hollow. In the basis of the second curve lay western territories of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, south-eastern territories of Krasnodar region and Adygeya republic. Most of districts of Stavropol region within Stavropol hight and separate lacunes in the grid of highly-expressed ECZ (for example, Nogayskiy region of Republic of Dagestan of Labinsk district of Krasnodar region).

Complex picture of ECZ has a long development history and reflects peculiarities of ethnic structure of a region and its dynamics. Specificity of their formation and peculiarities of their structure can be described on foundations of typological analysis (table). Two types and sub-types of ECZ are outlined in North Caucasus according to a degree of ethnic-cultural closeness of elements: (1a) strictly complimentary and (1b) relatively complimentary; (2a) strictly contrast and (2b) relatively contrast. ECZ of the first type are formed on foundations of confessionally- and historically-close ethnoses and sub-ethnoses, and the first sub-type (1a) is represented by ECZ that consist of close-relative ethnoses, for example, the Slavian and the Adyg, and the second one consists of confessionally-, historically- close ethnoses, for example, Slavian nations and the Osetian, or unnative christian nations (the Germans, the Greek, the Amenian, etc).

Strictly contrast ECZs from during the process of interaction between ethnoses and polar civilization and ethnic-cultural systems that aren't related in territory or history (for example, Tersk cossacks and the Kabardian). The contrast degree of an ECZ is also affected by a character of development of ethnic-cultural interaction (good neighbourly or conflicting).

According to dynamic peculiarities and evolution direction of ECZ we can outline three types of them – stationed, dynamic, and historical. Stationed ECZ are characterized by a significant existence duration and do not suffer great structural alterations. Depending on structure stability degree and functioning of stationed ECZ two sub-types are outlined: stable and unstable. Dynamical ECZ, depending on

their development direction, can be divided into divergent and convergent, in other words, evolving either towards the strengthening of expression, or its decrease. Historical ECZ are ethnic-cultural formations that proved their development as ECZ

during the development of Russian civilization in Northern Caucasus. It is important to point out that, during its development, an ECZ can transfer from one typological group into another under the impact of a complex of inner and outer factors.

Typology of ECZ of North Caucasus

		Complimentary		Contrast	
		Strictly	Relatively	Strictly	Relatively
Stationed	Stable		Mineralovodskaya	Prikubanskaya Kumo-Manychskaya	Tersko-Sunzhenskiy district
	Unstable		Low-Kuban	Prielbrusskaya Tersko-Kumskaya	Prikaspiyskiy, Tersko-Sulakskaya
Dynamic	Convergent		Middle-Kuban		
	Divergent	Pyatirechnaya	Prikumsk, Stavropol	Prichernomorskaya	Eastern-Kuban
Historical		Azov-Kuban			Sunzhenskaya

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