ON THE ISSUE OF THE STRUCTURE OF ETHNIC IDENTITY

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Abstract. *This scholarly investigation explores fundamental aspects of ethnic identity as an institutional framework, with particular emphasis on examining its structural dimensions and constituent elements. The significance of this research direction stems from the increasingly prominent position that ethnic identity occupies within contemporary state formations and societal organizations across diverse geographical and cultural contexts. The authors advance the proposition that through systematic analysis and detailed elaboration of ethnic identity's structural composition, researchers can effectively assess and comprehend the profound influence this phenomenon exerts throughout historical trajectories of social development, evolution, and transformative processes. Consequently, this article presents a comprehensive analytical examination of ethnic identity's structural architecture while simultaneously establishing meaningful correlations and distinctions between theoretical conceptualizations and empirical manifestations of the phenomenon under investigation, thereby contributing valuable insights to contemporary academic discourse.*

Keywords: *ethnic identity, representative of an ethnic group, effective mechanism, cognitive mechanism, behavioral mechanism, ethnicity.*

Considering the institution of ethnic identity, one should proceed from the fact that, by its psychological and social nature, ethnic identity is a reflection of the awareness of a particular individual as part of a certain ethnic community. The problem of ethnic identity remains one of the central ones in modern social psychology and ethnology, becoming particularly relevant in the context of globalization and the intensification of intercultural contacts. Despite a significant number of studies devoted to this phenomenon, the question of the structural organization of ethnic identity continues to arouse scientific debate. Various theoretical approaches offer ambiguous interpretations of the component composition of ethnic identity, which necessitates the systematization of existing concepts and clarification of the key structural elements of this construct. Understanding the internal structure of ethnic identity is not only theoretical, but also of practical importance for developing effective strategies for interethnic interaction and prevention of ethnic conflicts.

Analyzing the doctrine of ethnic identity, some issues remain controversial at the moment. It seems that such issues include the formation and structure of ethnic identity. The results of applied research by A.A. Gorbunova and S.G. Gorbunova are the most visible in the field of ethnic identity. Maximova, who found that the vast majority of people participating in the survey as part of their research activities identify themselves as representatives of a specific ethnic group, while only 5.8% of the population did not identify themselves as belonging to any nation or ethnic group [1, p. 43]. Also, according to the results of the study, it was found that the most widespread choice in terms of identification with an ethnic group is the language of communication and accounts for 74.8% of the votes cast by respondents. Thus, the vast majority of citizens, based on the results of the study, consider themselves to belong to a certain ethnic community. We believe that this may be due to the respondents' awareness of being a representative of a certain ethnic community, which implies positive feelings, a sense of pride and happiness.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation establishes the most important provisions concerning ethnic identity and the rights of peoples. Article 26 guarantees everyone the right to determine and indicate their nationality, and no one can be forced to determine and indicate their nationality, and also enshrines the right to use their native language and freely choose the language of communication, upbringing, education and crea-

tivity. Article 68 establishes that Russian is the official language of the Russian Federation throughout its territory, while republics have the right to establish their own official languages, and the Russian Federation guarantees all its peoples the right to preserve their native language, create conditions for its study and development. Article 69 emphasizes that the Russian Federation guarantees the rights of small indigenous peoples in accordance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation. These constitutional norms collectively form the legal basis for the protection of ethnic and cultural diversity and the realization of everyone's right to free national and cultural self-determination within the framework of the multinational Russian state.

The position of the head of state, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, at the meeting of the State Council «On State Support for traditional folk Culture in Russia» dated December 26, 2006, that culture and multinational traditions are great unifying values, is fair. A similar position is seen at the meeting of the Russian Organizing Committee «Victory», the head of state points out that traditions and moral guidelines form the basis of national identity in the Russian Federation. Thus, it is necessary to agree with the opinion that traditions, together with other unifying elements and mechanisms, are the fundamental basis of national identity.

Analyzing the architecture and specifics of the formation of ethnic identity, it is necessary to emphasize the multidimensional nature of this phenomenon, which is noted by researchers in the relevant scientific literature [2, p. 176]. For a deep understanding of the nature of ethnic identity, it is advisable to consider the interrelated elements of this process, including the procedural mechanisms of its formation, the characterological markers of ethnic communities and the basic prerequisites for its emergence and strengthening.

The procedural mechanisms through which ethnic identity is formed demonstrate a direct dependence on the position of a particular ethnic community in the system of international relations and the global geopolitical configuration.

The status of an ethnic group in a global context is a determining factor influencing the trajectory of its self-awareness and the specifics of identification processes within the community.

Speaking about the characterological markers of ethnic formations, it is necessary to single out a set of distinctive features of an ethnic group that form a unique national temperament and mentality. Each ethnic community is characterized by its unique set of psychological, behavioral, and cultural characteristics that make up a unique portrait of this community and distinguish its representatives from members of other ethnic groups.

As for the basic prerequisites for the formation of ethnic identity, such fundamental factors as the national language, which acts as a means of communication and cultural transmission, as well as the territorial community of residence of members of the ethnic group, are of fundamental importance here. It seems reasonable to assert that it is the combination of these circumstances that creates a solid foundation for the consolidation of an ethnic group, ensuring its internal cohesion and stability of identity over time.

At the same time, it is customary in scientific circles to distinguish three components, namely affective, cognitive and behavioral elements.

The affective aspect refers to the individual's sense of belonging to the relevant community, including a certain attitude towards it and the members of this community, an assessment of qualities [4]. It is important to note that there may be a positive or negative attitude here, the presence of which encourages an individual to identify (belonging) or isolate (denial of belonging) his personality with a certain community. This is exactly what the information obtained from the results of the applied research by A.A. Gorbunova and S.G. Maksimova reported.

Considering the cognitive aspect of the mechanism of ethnic identity, it should be assumed that it implies an individual's awareness of the characteristics, peculiarities and history of the corresponding community and provides for the subsequent systematization of information in his own mind. We believe that it is this element of the mechanism of ethnic identity that contributes to the identification of an individual with a specific community.

The final aspect of the mechanism of ethnic identity is the behavioral aspect, which reflects the structure of an individual's behavior as a member of an ethnic community, the individual's relationships in ethnocultural situations, and others.

At the moment, the aspect of the acceleration of history has acquired significant importance in the framework of the study of the role and place of the institution of ethnic identity in any modern society. The acceleration of history should be understood as rapid transformations and transformations, as a result of which the change of generations, groups and classes occurs faster and the continuity of knowledge is more clearly visible. In such conditions, the position of the American scientist A. Megill that if identity becomes questionable, the value of memory increases seems logical [3, p. 101]. It should be noted that we live in an era of unprecedented acceleration of social, technological and cultural changes, when the traditional mechanisms of transferring experience and values between generations are being seriously tested. In the context of globalization, mass migration and the digital revolution, people are increasingly faced with the blurring of familiar cultural coordinates and the loss of stable social orientations.

Considering the typology of ethnic identity in terms of severity, the following should be highlighted.

Table 1. Typology of ethnic identity by severity

Typology of ethnic identity by degree of severity				
№	**Type of identity**	**Characteristic**	**Features of behavior**	**Social consequences**
1.	Hyper-identity	Excessive elevation of one's ethnic group	Ethnocentrism, intolerance towards other ethnic groups, aggressiveness	Interethnic tension, conflicts
2.	Norm (positive identity)	Balanced attitude towards one's own and other ethnic groups	Tolerance, openness to intercultural dialogue	Harmonious coexistence of ethnic groups
3.	Hypo-identity	Blurred ethnicity, uncertainty	Avoidance of ethnic self-categorization, alienation from the group	Marginalization, identity crisis
4.	Negative identity	Denial, rejection of one's ethnicity	The desire for assimilation, the concealment of ethnic characteristics	Intrapersonal conflicts, self-alienation

When a person loses a clear idea of who they are in the ethnic and cultural sense, when traditional identification markers become less obvious or contradictory, the natural reaction is to turn to memory as a reliable source of self-determination.

In this context, memory acts as a kind of anchor of stability in the ocean of change. It allows you to reconnect with your roots and gain meaning through understanding the historical path of your people or ethnic group. The faster the changes take place around us, the stronger the need to turn to the past to consolidate identity in the present.

Therefore, the surge of interest in ethnic history, genealogy, and cultural heritage observed today is a natural response to the identity crisis generated by the acceleration of historical time.

At the contemporary juncture of societal advancement and development, scholarly discourse necessitates acknowledgment and comprehensive examination of the substantially elevated significance attributed to the ethnic identity factor, which intrinsically establishes and reinforces the fundamental importance and necessity of conducting rigorous investigative research endeavors focused specifically upon the structural architecture and operational mechanisms underlying ethnic identity formation and maintenance.

Analyzing the levels of manifestation of ethnic identity, it is possible to summarize the following.

Table 2. Levels of manifestation of ethnic identity

Levels of manifestation of ethnic identity				
№	**Level**	**Scale**	**Characteristic**	**Examples**
1.	Individual	Personal	Self-determination of the individual in the ethnic coordinate system	Self-designation, personal attitude to ethnicity
2.	Group	Small group	Ethnic identity in the context of family, local community	Family traditions, local ethnic practices
3.	Community - based	Ethnic community	Collective identity of an ethnic group	National idea, common ethnic symbols and myths
4.	Civilizational	Supra-ethnic	Identification with a broader cultural community	Slavic, European, and Islamic identity

To improve research on the structures of ethnic identity, it is advisable to create an International Scientific Coordination Center for the Study of Ethnic Identity (ISTCEI), which will bring together anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists and linguists from various countries to develop a universal multi-level methodology for analyzing the components of ethnic identity.

This center could initiate the creation of standardized protocols for studying the cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions of ethnic identity, taking into account the cultural specifics of different regions, as well as organize an international database of longitudinal studies that allows tracking the transformation of ethnic identity in the context of globalization and migration processes.

At the same time, it is proposed to establish a system of interuniversity laboratories specializing in neurocognitive aspects of ethnic categorization, symbolic markers of identity and mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of ethnocultural patterns, which will ensure the integration of natural science and humanitarian approaches to understanding the structural organization of ethnic identity and will allow the development of applied recommendations for educational programs aimed at the formation of a positive ethnic identity without xenophobic attitudes.

Through systematic analysis and critical evaluation of previously conducted applied research investigations, combined with careful consideration of official pronouncements articulated by the leadership of the state apparatus and theoretical perspectives elaborated within established scientific doctrine and academic literature, empirical evidence consistently demonstrates and confirms that the ethnic identity factor currently manifests at considerably elevated levels among the citizenry population of the Russian Federation, representing a significant sociocultural phenomenon worthy of detailed scholarly attention and investigation.

Based upon this established understanding and recognition of contemporary realities, we advance the reasoned position and theoretical proposition that the purposeful strengthening, systematic enhancement, and progressive development of the institutional framework surrounding ethnic identity, encompassing and incorporating the individual constituent elements and components that collectively comprise its multifaceted structural composition, fundamentally serves to facilitate and promote the consolidation, cohesion, and integration of society as a unified entity.

This consolidation process, when successfully implemented and maintained through appropriate mechanisms and institutional arrangements, substantially contributes toward the effective achievement and realization of collectively determined public objectives, societal aspirations, and state-level goals and strategic priorities that serve the broader interests of the national community and its continued advancement within the contemporary geopolitical and sociocultural landscape.

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К ВОПРОСУ СТРУКТУРЫ ЭТНИЧЕСКОЙ ИДЕНТИЧНОСТИ

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Аннотация. *В рамках настоящей научно-исследовательской работы были рассмотрены некоторые вопросы института этнической идентичности, в частности, структуры этнической идентичности. Актуальность тематики научного исследования предопределяется значительной ролью института этнической идентичности в рамках концепции любого современного государства. Авторы полагают, что посредством выделения структуры этнической идентичности возможно определить значение этнической идентичности в хронологии развития и преобразования общества. Таким образом, в настоящей научной статье авторы проводят анализ структуры этнической идентичности, производят сопоставление между теоретической и практической сторонами соответствующего вопроса.*

Ключевые слова: *этническая идентичность, представитель этноса, аффективный механизм, когнитивный механизм, поведенческий механизм, этнос.*