

Секция «Актуальные психолингвистические проблемы межкультурной коммуникации
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The features of crosscultural communication with small peoples of the Russian North shown on the example of the Nenets language

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According to the results of the Russian Population Census of 2010, the number of native speakers of the Nenets language is a little more than 20,000 people. The main territory of the language distribution is the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District.

The Nenets are extremely careful when dealing with the word, this applies to any everyday situation, including etiquette and ritual. For example, in situations when a guest has finished eating a dish, he does not say "thank you", but "I finished eating". This is an example of using an etiquette form. Another way to thank a person is the phrase "say thank you". For the Nenets, it is not words that matter, but actions. Mathias Castren, who in the middle of the XIX century spent several years traveling in Siberia, wrote in one of his letters: "In this [Nenets] language, there is even no word 'to thank', but give someone a sip vodka, a slice of bread, a piece of cloth, or whatever it is — and he will go to death for you on occasion. I really begin to think that the the above-mentioned word ["thank you"] was invented by someone ... who wanted to get rid of gratitude in the cheapest way...". To thank according to the Nenets concepts is to respond to a gift, and such a response should be something of equal value — a return gift or a return service.

The Nenets culture is hyper-Semiotic, extremely sign-rich, speaking, but this speaking will not always be associated with the loud speech. For example, according to the Nenets etiquette, guests try to say little and listen and watch more, carefully watching each other's gestures. Even if the guest came on business, he does not talk about this matter immediately, and the hosts do not ask him — first he is treated. He drinks tea, and drinks it for a long time. The tea party is held in silence, and after one special gesture, the guest himself begins to speak.

The use of such signs-gestures in communication was intended to avoid direct and sharp statements of their intentions, their expectations from the other person. Such expressions in which a person directly says what he needs from another person are considered unacceptable. But at the same time, empty, unnecessary messages that do not reflect your intentions in any way are also considered unacceptable. You can't say words in vain. In the Nenets language, there are a lot of words that describe speech, speaking, and speech behavior. These features of communicative behavior differ from the speech behavior of Russians, in which the fatic role of speech, the so-called small talk, is greater, the actional, behavioral code is less pronounced, the rules of speech behavior are less regulated.