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## **Problems of transformation of the Korean language in Russian-Korean society**

**Abstract:** In the present article deals with the problems of transformation of the Korean language in Russian Korean society. Russian speaking Koreans carry their own culture even in fifth and sixth generations, in spite of researchers’ believe, that Koreans lost ethnic unity, were fully assimilated and lost national consciousness. Main Korean mentality in intercommunication with other nations becomes an aim to compromise, avoiding open confrontation, even in unbearable living conditions in past.

**Keywords:** Russian-speaking Koreans, the transformation, the Korean language, Korean culture, Russian culture

### **Introduction**

Development of native language of any nation is closely connected to territorial and cultural belonging to a national state. History of Russian Koreans (koryo saram) counts 150 years of living in different states – the Russian Empire, the USSR, and the Russian Federation.

Russia is a unique multinational government, which has more than 190 nations and nationalities, of which every nation has its own culture. It has been more than 150 years since Russia has become home for Koreans (koryo saram). It would be rational to consider a transformation of the Korean language, which used to be native, in every step of history of Russia, as a history of Russian Koreans has become an inseparable part of it. It has been 150 years since Russian is the second motherland for Koreans (koryo saram).

Koreans, which have lived the same history with other nations of Russia, who took active part in State building in each historic part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have went through complete reevaluation of traditional norms. Every watershed period in the history of Russia transformed their mentality, national consciousness and as a result the Korean language has transformed. With each transformation period the native language

was being used less and less in common areas; gradually Koreans spoke the language only among friends and family, because the Russian language started to become a State language for Koreans.

### **I. The Russian Far East (1864 – 1937)**

Korean immigration in Russia has started, when there was a very strict embargo on the lieges leaving the country [Morning Calm] and having any contacts with foreigners. Taewongun – the father and warden of a little Korean king Gojon – aimed to protect his people from external influence, and stubbornly did not wish to implement reforms in domestic and foreign politics of the country.

In the middle of 1860-es Korean frontier government at the border with Russia received a very strict instruction to stop deserters in the most violent way; it was even allowed to kill them, if there was no other way to stop them. There were cases, when caught Koreans were executed right on the riverside of Tumen [5].

Violent measure from Korean authorities in relation to its own nation, hard life, which was connected with overtax, climate conditions, when all their harvest was flooded – all this gave them moral right to leave their native land forever, and they positively refused to come back to Korea.

Koreans hoped to improve their material situation (by working hard) in Russia, also they hoped to get benefits according to legislative act of April, 27<sup>th</sup> 1861, which was provided to Russian and foreign colonist of Amur and Primorsk provinces. Korean farmers, crossing the Tumen river over to the Russian territory, believed in “justice of the White King”, saw “a saver of Koreans from all the trouble” and “a rescuer from a wild horrible tyranny of despotic and greedy rulers” in him[7].

First Koreans-frontiersmen have lived in border areas. They have brought their traditional culture into Russia; have created their own “little Korea”. Closeness to Korea, close contacts with their fellow countrymen, compact living on the Russian territory did not cause any necessity in learning the Russian language. Despite this, Korean villages have organized private schools, which had the Russian language as a

primary subject. Mutual interaction of two cultures – Korean and Russian – at first was quite slow and complicated.

Main changes in lives of Koreans have begun after Soviet government has come to power at the Far East. The main object in constructing a new society and upbringing “a new soviet person” was extirpation of illiteracy among all people, including national minorities, by leaders of the country.

In the beginning of 1923 there were 224 Korean schools in Primorsk province with 12 822 pupils, out of which 40 schools were public (2334 pupils), 184 national schools (10 488 pupils), which existed on parents expenses.

In 1924 Primorsk regional committee of RKP(b) has established main trends of cultural works among Koreans: schools, publishing, organisation of clubs and open theatres, politic enlightenment, extirpation of illiteracy, anti-religious propaganda. There was an aim to make a Korean school completely public (at that moment there were only 38% of pupils, studying in public schools) [12].

In 1925-1926 an ABC book in the Korean language was published with 3000 copies for the purpose of teaching Korean population. In order to improve the context, this ABC book was rearranged and published in Vladivostok with 15 000 copies [13]. For uneducated Koreans there was an issue of arranging a special edition of a text book for reading in Korean.

Striving of Koreans to study at every stage of history is a national side, which distinguishes Koreans from other ethnic communities of Russia. This promptly led to organisation and establishment of studies in two Korean community colleges and in Pedagogical Institution in Primorsk area.

A Korean Pedagogic community college was open in Nikolsk-Ussurijsk in 1927. A community college in Posiete was open in 1930, and Korean Pedagogic Institution in Vladivostok in 1931. In 1933-1934 academic school year there were 287 elementary Korean schools, 40 junior secondary Korean schools and two secondary Korean schools in Ussuriysk and Primorsk areas, with total 26 698 [11] pupils, where both, the Russian and the Korean languages were taught.

Within 5 years the Nikolsk-Ussuriysk Korean community college has prepared 420 teachers. If in 1924-1925 academic school year there were only 8 Koreans, studying in institutions of higher education, in 1935 the Vladivostok Korean Pedagogical institution has given out diplomas to first 17 Korean graduates. In 1936 – 16 graduates, out of which 8 history teachers and 8 math and physics. In 1937 87 graduates finished a Pedagogical institution, including 29 – historians, 42 – physicist and mathematicians, 16 – nature studies [4].

The Korean language and Korean literature have gone through strong prosperity and development in Soviet Far East till August 1937. This happened due to the fact, that the Japanese language and culture were forced into colonial Korea. There was an opportunity for artistic growth for such Korean writers and poets of a new generation as Cho Guichon, Young Sonnen, Chae Young, Kim Chun, Lee Girsu, Tae Janchun, Chon Huala, and Ke Bonu in Soviet Far East.

Such poets as Tsoi Horim and Tyo Myonhi have received a vast popularity. Starting from 1934 Tsoi Horim was leading Far East regional Unity of writes. A founder of Soviet Korean literature is rightfully considered Tyo Myonhi. In 1925 he was one of the active organizers of Proletarian Art Federation in Korea, in 1929 – was saved from Japanese government's persecution, migrated to the Soviet Union, where continued his literature career.

The first Korean literature album «로동자의 고향» (“Motherland of working people”) of 139 pages was published in Khabarovsk in 1935. It included an article “What Maxim Gorky teaches young writers” of Kim Vasilij, poetry of Tsoi Horim, Oh Senmuk, Han Anatoly, Jo Dong Hyeok, Kim Inseb, Tae Janchun, Khan Jureouk, Yu Ilrieoun, Tyo Myonhi and others, as well as songs and other piece of work from Soviet Korean authors.

Korean Regional Theater on move was founded in September 1932. The main stage manager of the theater was Tsoi Kilchun, the main designer – Van Ilchue. There had been 18 people in the Korean troop – 15 actors and 3 actresses, including 5 Komsomols, 2 representatives and one candidate to representatives of VKP(b) party. It

was characteristic, that theater had been developing a national drama on a par with proletarian culture [11].

Sovietization of Koreans, building of a new life has made changes in music culture of Koreans as well. Revolutionary hikes, songs have sown discord within music area. A very well-known Korean folk singer Yeoung Soneoung stood up for traditional performance of a Korean melody; he tried to save national coloration, poet-evolutionary Tyo Myonhi was his most rival opponent. He criticized a traditional Korean music, considering it old-fashioned, not able to be in a vanguard, which moves the progress. With increasing frequency lyrics of songs had not been changing, but a melody had. A popular singer Lee Hamdok was one of the main arrangers of old Korean songs to a Soviet style, and nowadays these melodies live among Russian Koreans [6].

At this transition period national Korean songs with traditional melodies have been performed among older Korean generation. Gradually, though, they have been pushed out as anti-soviet. In the process of assimilation of the Korean population into a Russian (Soviet) culture, melody and rhythm of song have changed. Soviet and Korean melodies had mixed in Korean songs, this particular sphere represents a bright merge of two cultures.

An important role in building a new society belonged to mass media. In May 1st, 1923 a newspaper named «선봉» (“Avangard”) was written in Korean and was founded in Vladivostok, it was a part of Korean party in Primorsk Governor Committee of RKP(b). In May of the same year at the Far East, a magazine «신 생활» (“New life”) has started being published, which was published in Korea before by the same name, but was banned by the Japanese government. News about inside Korea life and reports about national liberation movement were published in the magazine. Beside the named publications, there were other in Korean, such as «문화» (“Culture”), «로동자» (“Labourer”), «농업 신문» (“Farm newspaper”), «동아공산 신문» (“Newspaper of Eastern community”) and other [8]. The Korean National Theatre was the first and the only one in Soviet Far East, and has earned a status of All-Union value. In resolution about the Korean theater it is noted, that it has done great work within three years of its existence. Composed plays reflected a struggle of working Koreans for Independence of Korea:

“Tyan-Phen-Don torch”, “North-East thoroughfare”, “Tyan Hanmok”, “Chun Hueden”. There were plays, which described life, participation of working Koreans in Socialistic building in Far-East land: “Key”, “Border”, “Skipper She Sansebi”, etc.

With the establishment of Soviet government in the Russian Far East, Koreans-frontiersmen have faced main changed in national-cultural traditions. Mainly, the reasons consisted of politic Sovietisation and Communism ideology propaganda, which was aimed at eliminating traditional customs and ceremonies among Koreans. National Korean holidays were used as political and anti-religious agitations. All traditional Korean holidays were banned. Exceptionally domestic traditions remained, such as a birth of a child, wedding, 60-year anniversary and funerals.

In spite of forced dissolution of culture of ethnic community, including Korean culture, Soviet government made all the circumstances to get a free secondary level and higher education. Soviet Koreans had studies the Russian language actively and everywhere, had entered universities with equal conditions to institutions of Soviet Union.

## **II. The USSR (1937 – 1990)**

The tragic 1937 has begun - the year of involuntary relocation of Koreans to Kazakhstan and republics of Middle Asia. Forcible alienation of Koreans from regions of their inhabitant, breaking families, damage, which was caused to the culture, unity, national consciousness, traditions, built relationships with other nations, vividly stopped a development of Soviet Koreans. As a result of destructive politics of Soviet Government, consciousness of Korean unity has faced dramatic changes.

Deported Koreans, being in different living conditions, have changed their habits, skills, traditions and customs, got adapted to a different social environment. They “built over” their traditional psychology, but did not change its fundamental direction. Deportation has caused Koreans material and spiritual damages. They lost such things as destruction of territorial unity of Soviet Koreans formed in Primorsk area, losing of living environment, economic and cultural-education environments.

According to Decision, made by CK VKP(b) “About reorganisation of National schools” (dated January 24, 1938) it said: “CK VKP(b) considers established that middle-class nationalists operate in institutions of national education, acculturate national schools (German, Bulgarian, Dungan, Korean, Polish, Jewish, Latvian, Uyghur, and other), modify them into centres of middle-class nationalists, anti-Soviet influence among children” [11].

According this decision, all national schools were closed, including Korean schools; Pedagogic community college and Korean Pedagogic Institution were reorganised to usual Soviet general education institutions with teaching the Russian language.

It is well known, that thank to native language, human's ideology is formed, its national consciousness and spiritual-moral values. Native language influences ethnic psychological characteristics, nature of ethnic community, which is formed by long term development of social relations. Its formation is greatly influenced not only by social relations, but also by climate conditions, landscape geographic position of a living region.

Unfortunately, scattered along the territory of Kazakhstan and republics of Middle Asia, Koreans practically lost their native language. Desperation of the situation, both legal and moral, made Koreans save at least partly material culture, but otherwise, in order to survive they had to accept cultures of the regions they lived in: in Uzbekistan - Uzbek culture, in Kazakhstan - Kazakh culture, in Russia – the Russian culture. The Russian language has become the only State language in the USSR.

Only after I. Stalin's death in the period of “Khrushchev Thaw”, by many claims of Korean scientists and public figures, it was allowed to teach the Korean language in regular schools in Korean collective farms as an additional subject. But the time was lost. The second and third generations of Soviet Koreans, who had received education in Russian, had grown and they did not feel the need of their native language - Korean.



### **III. Analysis of statistic data All-Union and All-Russian population census (Koreans)**

It is also important to analyze a place of habitat in order to discover reasons of such high level of adaptation of Koreans in the Russian culture. Following the changes in consciousness and national sense is important within two criterias: time and space.

Geographic factor stopped playing any role after a global migrant the USSR politics. Traditional adherence to territorial and cultural belonging, which was always kept by first Koreans-frontiersmen till 1920-es, weakened with the advent of Soviet government. There were many volunteers wishing to leave their manned areas among Koreans, especially among the youth. They wished to begin a new life in central regions of the USSR. The youth, who were born in Russia, could speak Russian by that time and tried to move to big cities and study in higher education institutions.

A clear example of this is shown in All-Union population census, which was held in 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989, 2002, 2010 in the USSR.

**1926.** According to All-Union population census in 1926 there lived officially 86 999 Koreans in the USSR. 77 843 people lived in countrysides, 9156 people lived in cities (Table 1) [2].

**Table 1. All-Union population census of 1926**  
**National population members by Republics of the USSR**

Nationality	Population								
	All population			City population			Countryside population		
	Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders
Total USSR citizens	70781593	75855937	146637530	12782245	13334433	26116678	57999348	62521504	120520852
Koreans in the USSR	47 945	39 054	86 999	5645	3511	9156	42 300	35 543	77 843
Russian SFSR	47 817	39 037	86 854	5546	3497	9043	42 271	35 540	77 811
Belorussian SSR	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1
Ukrainian SSR	90	14	104	71	13	84	19	1	20
Transcaucasia SSR	8	1	9	8	0	8	0	1	1
Uzbek SSR	29	1	30	19	1	20	10	0	10

The main part of population continued farming on the territory of Russian SFSR. But in 1926 Koreans had already lived in Belarus, Ukraine, Transcaucasia and Uzbek SSR – overall there were 145 people, out of which 32 people lived in the countryside and 113 people lived in the city.

As for Ukrainian SSR the population of Koreans reaches there 84 people (71 men and 13 women). Koreans in Donets Basin (Donbass) in particular, worked in coalmines [11]. There was a vast majority of city population in other regions. It appeared that the lifestyle began to change among Koreans. 145 people migrated to these regions in order to earn more money in cities or in order to study in higher education institutions.

**1939.** According to All-Union population census of 1939 just in Russian SFSR Soviet Koreans lived in 77 areas, regions and autonomous republics [3]. The population census took part after 1937, in other words after involuntary transfer of Soviet Koreans from the Far East. In spite of this fact, they remained in many regions of the USSR – 13 524 Koreans (Table 2).

**Table 2. All-Union population census of 1939.  
Allocation of city and countryside population  
of Russian SFSR regions according to nationality and gender (Koreans)**

		Population								
		All nationalities			City population			Countryside population		
		Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders
	Total USSR population	81 694 889	88 862 204	170 557 093						
	Koreans in the USSR	97 071	85 268	182 339						
	Koreans in Russian SFSR									
1	Altai Territory	72	56	128	38	22	60	34	34	68
2	Arkhangelsk Territory	89	11	100	28	5	33	61	6	67
3	Bashkir ASSR	17	15	32	10	6	16	7	9	16
4	Buryat-Mongol ASSR	134	68	202	50	49	99	84	19	103
5	Volgograd Region	1472	1318	2790	121	73	194	1351	1245	2596
6	Vologotsk Region	12	5	17	9	4	13	3	1	4
7	Voronezh Region	20	9	29	12	9	21	8	0	8
8	Dagestan ASSR	29	18	47	27	18	45	2	0	2
9	Khabarovsk Territory, incl. Jewish Autonomous Region	2	1	3	2	1	3	0	0	0
10	Ivanovo Region	17	13	30	16	13	29	1	0	1

11	Irkutsk Region	425	198	623	202	134	336	223	64	287
12	Kalmyk ASSR	4	2	6	1	0	1	3	2	5
13	Karelian ASSR	16	4	20	3	4	7	13	0	13
14	Kirov Region	62	3	65	13	2	15	49	1	50
15	Komi ASSR	28	11	39	5	5	10	23	6	29
16	Komi Pechyorinsk district	3	4	7	3	4	7	0	0	0
17	Molotov (Perm), incl. Komi-Perm national district	17	5	22	11	5	16	6	0	6
18	Krasnodar Territory	99	118	217	31	17	48	68	101	169
19	Adigei Auton. Region	6	3	9	3	3	6	3	0	3
20	Krasnoyarsk Territory	574	235	809	402	174	576	172	61	233
21	Taimir National District	68	0	68	63	0	63	5	0	5
22	Khakas Auton. Region	130	141	271	105	126	231	25	15	40
23	Crimea ASSR	51	66	117	39	51	90	12	15	27
24	Kursk Region	19	12	31	15	9	24	4	3	7
25	Leningrad	145	50	195	145	50	195	0	0	0
26	Leningrad Region	157	56	213	148	54	202	9	2	11
27	Mari ASSR	4	1	5	1	0	1	3	1	4
28	Mordovian ASSR	8	1	9	2	0	2	6	1	7
29	Moscow	284	156	440	284	156	440	0	0	0
30	Moscow Area	384	243	627	349	201	550	35	42	77

31	Murmansk Region	12	5	17	12	5	17	0	0	0
32	ASSR of German Volga region	147	9	156	3	0	3	144	9	153
33	Arkhangelsk National Distr., incl. German ND	43	0	43	61	6	67	40	0	40
34	Gorkovsky (of Nizhny Novgorod) Region	27	12	39	10	9	19	17	3	20
35	Khabarovsk Territory, incl. Nizhny-Amur Territory	3	3	6	3	3	6	0	0	0
36	Novosibirsk Territory	200	139	339	127	91	218	73	48	121
37	Altay Region, incl. Oirotsky Auton. Region	20	9	29						
38	Omsk Region	145	91	236	93	53	146	52	38	90
39	Omsk Reg., incl. Tarsky Region	9	8	17	2	1	3	7	7	14
40	Omsk Reg. incl. Yamalo-Omsk Reg., incl. Yamalo-German Reg.	6	1	7	5	1	6	1	0	1
41	Omsk Reg., incl. Tobol District	2	2	4	1	2	3	1	0	1
42	Omsk Reg., incl. Khanty- Mansiysk Nation.Reg.	6	2	8	1	1	2	5	1	6
43	Orenburg Region	49	36	85	24	18	42	25	18	43
44	Orlov Region	16	8	24	12	8	20	4	0	4
45	Penza Region	6	3	9	9	3	12	3	0	3
46	Perm Region	341	27	368	148	13	161	193	14	207
47	Primorsk Region	32	32	64	17	22	39	15	10	25
48	Primorsk Region, incl. Ussuriysk Region	20	11	31	9	6	15	11	5	16

49	Rostov Region	47	38	85	35	33	68	12	5	17
50	Ryazan Region	4	3	7	2	2	4	2	1	3
51	Kuibish (Samara) Region	101	38	139	85	33	118	16	5	21
52	Saratov Region	61	30	91	56	19	75	5	11	16
53	Sakhalin Region	7	2	9	5	1	6	2	1	3
54	Sverdlovsk Region	62	46	108	34	25	59	28	21	49
55	North-Osetin ASSR	26	13	39	16	7	23	10	6	16
56	Smolensk Territory	5	5	10	1	4	5	4	1	5
57	Sevastopol Region, incl. Karachevsky Aut.Reg.	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1
58	Stavropol Territory	65	43	108	10	3	13	55	40	95
59	Tambov Region	12	8	20	9	4	13	3	4	7
60	Tatar ASSR	54	18	72	53	18	71	1	0	1
61	Tver Region	7	1	8	2	0	2	5	1	6
62	Omsk Reg., incl. Tobol Territory	2	2	4	2	2	4	0	0	0
63	Tula Region	10	7	17	5	5	10	5	2	7
64	Udmur ASSR	9	2	11	5	1	6	4	1	5
65	Irkutsk Reg., incl. Ust-Ordinsky Nat.Reg.	23	9	32	23	9	32	0	0	0
66	Khabarovsk Region	132	50	182	34	27	61	98	23	121
67	Khabarovsk Reg., incl. Kamchatsk Reg.	8	2	10	3	0	3	5	2	7

69	Khabarovsk Reg., incl. Koryatsky Nat.Reg.	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
70	Khabarovsk Reg., incl. Amur Reg.	5	16	21	3	6	9	2	10	12
71	Chelyabinsk Reg.	192	99	291	60	19	79	132	80	212
72	Checheno-Ingosh ASSR	36	37	73	35	37	72	1	0	1
73	Chitin Reg., incl. Aginsk Nat.Reg.	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
74	Chitinsk Reg.	589	355	944	343	226	569	246	129	375
75	Chevash ASSR	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
76	Kamchatsk Reg., incl. Chukotsk Nat.Reg.	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
77	Yakutsk ASSR	1184	487	1671	583	308	891	601	179	780
78	Yakutsk ASSR, incl. Aldansk Region	530	288	818	423	231	654	107	57	164
79	Yaroslavl Reg.	59	30	89	16	20	36	43	10	53
	<b>Total in RSFSR</b>	8670	4854	13524	4490	2492	6982	4180	2362	6542



Big groups of Koreans have lived in the Volgograd Region – 2790 people, out of which 194 people lived in the city, 2596 people lived in the countryside. 623 people lived in Irkutsk Region: 336 lived in the city, 287 – in the countryside. 809 Koreans were registered in the Krasnoyarsk Region, out of which 576 people lived in the city and 233 – In the countryside.

According to population census, there lived 440 Koreans in Moscow and Moscow Area and 627 Koreans in the countryside. 77 people were registered in the countryside; the rest of people lived in the city. In Yakutsk ASSR 1671 Koreans lived: 891 lived in the cities and 780 – in the countryside. 944 people lived in Chitin Region, 569 of them were registered in the city and 375 – in the countryside (Table 2).

As shown in the tables above, according to population census of 1939 in the USSR, Koreans appeared in many regions, both in the city and in the countryside. That said, a tendency of changing from countryside lifestyle to city lifestyle is observed. This proves that Koreans actively got city professions and changed their lifestyles. Active urbanization of Koreans influenced the Korean language transformation; living in city conditions involved knowledge of the Russian language; in countryside, where Koreans lived very closely to each other, they used a spoken Korean language.

**1959, 1970.** According to All-Union population census of 1959, there were 313 735 Koreans in the USSR [10]. They were registered in all Republics of the USSR, their population varied between 29 people (Lithuanian Region) and 138 453 people (Uzbek Region). 91 445 people lived in RSFSR, 74 019 – in Kazakh SSR, 1341 – in Ukrainian SSR [10], etc.

According to All-Union population census data in 1970, there were 357 507 Koreans registered: 101 369 people in RSFSR, 45 in Armenian SSR, 75 in Lithuanian SSR, 96 in Estonian SSR, 106 people lived in Moldavian SSR, 139 in Azerbaijan SSR, 166 in Latvian SSR, 231 in Georgian SSR, 277 in Belorussian SSR, etc. [10]

The data, mentioned above, is an evidence of high adaptation ability of Koreans. Each Republic in the USSR is basically a separate ethnic community, with its culture and mentality, in spite of Socialistic structure of the State. In each of these Republics Koreans needed to integrate, accept their living conditions, build intercultural

communications, and it was possible to reach it only by hard honest work, tolerance to the world around them, professional knowledge of the Russian language.

**2002.** After the USSR collapse, the first population census was held in 2002. The population of Koreans in the Russian Federation was 148 556 people [1]. The biggest group was registered in the Far East District – 61 946 Koreans, and in the South District – 39 031 Koreans (Table 3).

According to population census in 2010, it turned out that out of total 153 156 Koreans [9], there were 114 954 people registered in city areas and 38 202 people in the countryside areas (Table 4); 75% of Korean population became city residences.

As can be seen from above, according to the statistic data of population census in 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1989, 2002 and 2010, mentioned above, the data, collected in the Table 5, shows that Koreans lived locally in each post-Soviet area.

**Table 3. All-Russian population census in 2002**  
**Population of Koreans in Federal Districts of the Russian Federation**

Nationality	Federal District						
	Central	North-West	South	Volga Region	Ural	Siberia	Far East
<b>All Population</b>	<b>3 800 0651</b>	<b>13 974 466</b>	<b>22 907 141</b>	<b>31 154 744</b>	<b>12 373 926</b>	<b>20 062 938</b>	<b>6 692 865</b>
Koreans ( <i>Koryo saram</i> ) 148 556 people	16 720	6903	39 031	9088	4071	10 797	61 946

**Table 4. All-Russian population census of 2010. Population of Koreans in the Russian Federation**

Nationality	Population								
	All population			City			Countryside		
	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women	Both genders	Men	Women
Total citizens in the USSR	142 856 536	66 046 579	76 809 957	105313773	48 117 546	57 196 227	37 542 763	17 929 033	19 613 730
Koreans ( <i>Koryo saman</i> )	153 156	79 183	73 973	114 954	58 905	56 049	38 202	20 278	17 924

**Table 5. Summary table of Koreans population in the USSR according to data of All-Union population census of 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989, All-Russian population census of 2002, 2010.**

Year of population census	The USSR	RSFSR	Ukrainian SSR	Belorussian SSR	Moldavian SSR	Estonian SSR	Latvian SSR	Lithuanian SSR	Georgian SSR	Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Turkmenistan SSR	Uzbekistan SSR	Tajikistan SSR CCP	Kirghiz SSR	Kazakhstan SSR CCP
1926	86 999	86 854	104	2	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
1939	182 339	11 462	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1959	313 735	91 445	1341	115	99	40	49	29	115	34	90	1919	138 453	2365	3622	74 019
1970	357 507	101 369	4480	277	106	96	166	75	231	45	139	3493	151 058	8490	9404	78 078
1979	388 926	97 649	6061	478	212	103	183	140	129	30	130	3105	163 062	11179	14 481	91 984
1989	438 650	101 051	8669	638	269	202	248	119	242	29	94	2848	183 140	13 431	18 355	103 315
2002	-	148556	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	-	153 156	13 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	163 787	6000	19 000	100 000

**Table 6. Population of Korean population according to level of education among territorial entity of the Russian Federation. 2010.**

Regions, cities and countrysides	Population	Level of education	Postgraduate	Higher education	Specific gravity, %
<b>Kalmykia</b>	1057	1057	3	203	<b>19,2</b>
<i>City</i>	259	259	1	99	
<i>Countryside</i>	798	798	2	104	
<b>Astrakhan Region</b>	2344	2344	5	410	<b>17,5</b>
<i>City</i>	901	901	2	240	
<i>Countryside</i>	1443	1443	3	170	
<b>Kabardino-Balkar</b>	3367	3367	12	611	<b>18,1</b>

<b>Republic</b>					
<i>City</i>	3089	3089	11	578	
<i>Countryside</i>	278	278	1	33	
<b>The Kamchatka Region</b>	1282	1282	8	310	
<i>City</i>	1072	1072	8	280	<b>24,2</b>
<i>Countryside</i>	210	210	-	30	
<b>Primorsk Area</b>	16308	15 426	80	3876	
<i>City</i>	12942	12 176	72	3281	<b>23,8</b>
<i>Countryside</i>	3366	3250	8	595	
<b>Khabarovsk Region</b>	7185	7176	69	2167	
<i>City</i>	6347	6347	67	2025	<b>30,2</b>
<i>Countryside</i>	838	838	2	142	
<b>Sakhalin Region</b>	21828	21 828	83	5453	
<i>City</i>	19825	19 825	72	5258	<b>25</b>
<i>Countryside</i>	2003-	2003-	11-	195	
Total: 7 Regions of RF	53 371	52 480	260	13 030	
<i>City</i>	44 435	43 660	233	11 761	<b>24,4</b>
<i>Countryside</i>	8936	8820	27	1269	

According to Table 6, the specific gravity of level of education percentage-wise varies according to a region: from 17,5% till 30% of Koreans have higher education (Table 6).

Statistics shows, that the reputation of a Korean language, which developed in critical conditions and had a limited sphere of implementing, stayed still on a high level in 1959. The Korean population of older generation tried to save the language of their nationality – there lived 75% of Koreans in countrysides and 60% in cities. However, there were only 40% of young Koreans, aged fewer than 25, admitted Russian as their native language, so they have grown in conditions of deportation and have been more sensitive to a different national atmosphere.

In 2002 it turned out, that out of 153 156 people, who could speak any language in Russia, only 42 384 people could speak Korean, which is about 27, 7 %, other people pointed that they did not know their language and considered Russian their native language – 72,3%. Such fast loss of the native language by Koreans can be explained by several reasons.

- 1) Repressive politics in 1930-s: the Soviet Union government has narrowed a sphere of practicing of a native language within the limits of a family, when it came to ethnic Koreans.
- 2) A number of mixed marriages has grown, which negatively influenced preserving the Korean language and national traditions.
- 3) Absence of national schools, which played an important role in preserving and handing down social-historic experience to the next generations. It was not possible to revive a national school neither in Russia, nor in Kazakhstan or Republics of the Middle Asia, though there were attempts.
- 4) High reputation of the Russian language, which fastened an adaptation in a foreign environment.

During many decades religion took a leading place in lives of Koreans-frontiersmen in the Russian Empire. Often schools were founded in churches, which became a peculiar kind of a center of church living. In conditions of foreign language surrounding, church was the most important factor for saving national traditions and a

Korean culture. The decree “About separation of a State from a school or church” of January, 20<sup>th</sup> 1918 has broken off the relationship between a church and school, and it has flattened a national culture of Russian Koreans. Unfortunately, there are no exact data about Korean churches on the territory of the Far East.

Starting in 1920 Koreans have went through fundament changes on the Russian land. Three main factors, which determine ethnic community – a language, territory, culture were practically lost by Koreans. By the beginning of twenty-first century more than 70% of Koreans, who lived in Russia and CIS Countries, considered Russian their native language, and considered Korean as a foreign language, which gives a right to call Koreans of post-Soviet time – Russian speaking Koreans.

Geographic factor stopped playing a role in saving a national identity< culture and language. Koreans moved along the whole territory of the country freely. The living territory of Koreans is the whole Russia and CIS Countries; there are no regions, where Russian speaking Koreans did not live. With politic crisis, which lead to a global reconsideration of cultural values of all ethnic communities, it also affected Koreans. Along with that, all mentioned above facts prove high adaptation ability of Koreans, tolerance and ability to build international communications with all the nations of Russia and CIS Countries.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

In international atmosphere of a Soviet society, in particular, among ethnic minorities, such as German, Korean, Bulgarian, Polish, Jewish, Uyghur and others, a united Soviet Socialistic Organization physically did not allow ethnic languages to develop, including the Korean language, as it caused suspicions and accusation of anti-Soviet propaganda.

Only after the USSR collapse, democratization of the Russian society let revive a Korean society movement. Based on Concept of National Politics, affirmed in June, 15<sup>th</sup> 1996 No.909 and Federal law About Private organizations of May, 19<sup>th</sup> 1995 No.82-Φ3, Korean private organizations and cultural centers appeared with the help of regional government along the whole Russia in regions, where Russian speaking Koreans live. The aims and objects of these organizations have been narrowing down to reviving of national consciousness, Korean culture and the language.

Year 2015 is an anniversary year for Russia and Republic of Korea, the year of start for diplomatic relationship establishment. 25 years of friendly relationships between Russia and Korea have a positive result. Close partnership in economy and culture, active propaganda to learn the Korean language from Korean side has gained a great number of Russian citizens, including Russian speaking Koreans, who study the Korean language and culture in Russia.

In modern Russia an inner world of a Korean-citizen is formed under an influence of two national cultures – Russian and Korean, by constant socializing and interrelation with other ethnic community culture, which populate the Russian Federation. A culture of Korean nation is like a branch of a chaplet, which entwines together with other cultures of multinational nation, becomes richer and more available for other ethnic communities of Russia. In spite of the fact that the Korean language, having been native in past, was lost, Koreans still keep their national identity.

The main living slogan of Koreans on the Russian land for 150 years can be rephrased by a chairman of All-Russian Unity of Koreans V.I. Tso: "...For all Koreans in Russia, knowledge of the Russian language is more important, because my son will work in Russia. And the fact, that he would know the Korean language better than the



Russian language, will not give him anything. For him, to be a proper member of this society, first of all, he has to know the Russian language and take the best out of the Russian culture...” [14] The meaning of these words passes on from generation to generation, the Russian language allowed Koreans become a rightful part of multinational Russia, take active part in all spheres of social-cultural development of the country, succeed in promotions at work.

Russian speaking Koreans carry their own culture even in fifth and sixth generations, in spite of researchers’ believe, that Koreans lost ethnic identity, were fully assimilated and lost national consciousness. Main Korean mentality in intercommunication with other nations becomes an aim to compromise, avoiding open confrontation, even in unbearable living conditions in past.

The core of Korean mentality in relationship with other nations is strive for compromise, orderliness, hard work and avoiding open confrontation, even in spite of unbearable living conditions in past.

The core of Russian speaking Koreans is a complex phenomenon, repeatedly exposed to transformation within 150 years, involuntarily due to social-politic changes, which took place in Russia. Koreans were forced to choose a strategy to survive and adapt both in individual and collective levels. By nature hardworking Koreans were oriented to reach solid position in the Russian society.

Worldview complex of Russian speaking Koreans is unique, as at genetic level it includes basic values of a Korean culture, and through the Russian culture it is aggregated to world culture, which stand to challenges of time and harmonically fit the processes of globalization.

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