

Passing languages and cultures of Finno-Ugric and Samoyedic peoples to future generations / Section
1. Continuity of development and use of the Finno-Ugric and Samoyedic languages and cultures, block
I

1. Part I / Bilingualism and multilingualism / Initialization 2.

Molnár Bodrogi, Enikő: Conservation and functioning of bilingualism in diasporas, Hungarian minorities as an example

mbeniko@yahoo.com

Docent, Head of the Finnish branch of the Institute of literature of the Babeş-Bolyai University,
Kolozsvár / Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Hungarian minorities that live in Hungary's neighboring countries are a result of political changes in the early 20th century on the territory of national states, formed after the First World War. Those neighboring countries are: Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Slovenia and Austria. Czech, Romanian and Serbian allies of the victorious Entente powers divided the Hungarian territory between the five multinational states. Two thirds of the former Hungarian state territory and one third of the Hungarian population were separated from it.

([Http://www.hhrf.org/xantusz/mv_bevezeto_tanulmany.html](http://www.hhrf.org/xantusz/mv_bevezeto_tanulmany.html))

As a result of conscious self-organization, the Hungarians that were living in separated areas, formed national minorities.

In the early 21th century, the Hungarian diaspora of Carpathian Basin is living in ethnically compact, mixed and dispersed areas. They are divided into different groups depending on specific historical, economic and cultural conditions.

([Http://adatbank.transindex.ro/regio/kisebbsegkutatas/pdf/03_kisebbsegkutatas_eloszo.pdf](http://adatbank.transindex.ro/regio/kisebbsegkutatas/pdf/03_kisebbsegkutatas_eloszo.pdf))

Over the past two hundred years, the history of Hungarian relations with their neighboring nations has been characterized by the fact that the nations were formed during this time period. Representatives of minority elite in all regions sought to reduce difficulties in the life of minorities and to provide greater freedom of action, which is necessary for self-organization of the community.

([Http://adatbank.transindex.ro/regio/kisebbsegkutatas/pdf/03_kisebbsegkutatas_eloszo.pdf](http://adatbank.transindex.ro/regio/kisebbsegkutatas/pdf/03_kisebbsegkutatas_eloszo.pdf))

The research on identity of the Hungarian minority communities shows that the sense of belonging to Hungarian ethnicity and Hungarian language are closely linked. It is very important, for the members of these communities, to belong to the Hungarian language community. (Termini 163) The Hungarian minorities form one linguistic community with Hungarians living in Hungarian territory and become members of one cultural nation, while remaining citizens of different nations.

From the point of view of preserving linguistic communities of the Hungarian minority, it's important not to restrict the use of Hungarian language as a mere language of private life. Instead, it's necessary to strengthen the position of the language and to expand its use in areas of public life. There are more opportunities for numerically large communities (such as: Hungarians in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine

and Serbia) to use their native tongue in private life (they have less intermarriages) as well as in public.

The Hungarian diaspora lives in a bilingual or multilingual environment and naturally speaks the language of the majority alongside with its mother tongue. These linguistic linkages are rooted in a century-old history, but after the year 1928, the bilingual environment had left its mark on all levels of the native language. First of all, the language of the majority has its influence on vocabulary and shaping grammatical structures, although to a lesser degree. (Termini 182).

Today, the Hungarian minority communities mostly pass their mother tongue on within the family. Representatives of both the majority and minority groups agree that bilingualism is necessary for integrating the minorities in a nation with majority language. Thus it is obvious that those who speak Hungarian must speak that language somewhat proficiently. At the same time, the aim of the Hungarian minority is bilingual education with mother tongue being in dominant position. (Termini 190) Implementing education in Hungarian language at all levels is also a priority.

Undoubtedly, the future preservation of Hungarian language outside Hungarian borders depends primarily on political factors. To accomplish this, the community must practice their mother tongue as much as possible. It is not enough to ensure linguistic rights and their consolidation at the legislative level, one must also be aware of the linguistic rights and use them to one's benefit.

Bibliography

A Termini Magyar Nyelvi Kutatóhálózat tíz éve. Szerk. Benő Attila, Péntek János. Gramma Nyelvi Iroda - Dunaszerdahely. Szabó T. Attila Nyelvi Intézet - Kolozsvár. 2011.

http://adatbank.transindex.ro/regio/kisebbsegkutatas/pdf/03_kisebbsegkutatas_eloszo.pdf

http://www.hhrf.org/xantusz/mv_bevezeto_tanulmany.html