Attitude of modern Mari to their native language and culture

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In order to find the opportunities for maintenance of any minority language it is necessary to take into account sociocultural situation of the area it is spoken in. Current paper is devoted to investigation of general attitude of Mari to their language and culture, an important component in determination of ethnolinguistic vitality [Giles et al 1977]. Data received from fieldwork (April-May, 2013) allowed to assume that generally position of Mari to above mentioned issues was highly positive: people realized the necessities of paying more attention from authorities (87.3%) and population (89.1%) to language development. However, in some contexts (for instance, in educational and political) native population can be characterized as rather passive. That is one of the reasons for which Mari despite its status as an official language in Mari El region has narrow domain of usage (45% of respondents speak Mari only with family members).

At the same time rising activity of Mari in cultural sphere (concerning ethnic art and religion) caused increasing subjective vitality of native people to some extent that expressed in more positive attitude to their language and culture

Suc controversial data allowed for the author of current paper to create an overall picture of ethnolinguistic situation in Mari El region and determine several possible ways of the Mari language development.

References:


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