

# IDENTITY OF ETHNIC KOREANS

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**Abstract:** *the article analyzes the ethnic Korean identity influences cultural, social, and political spheres, especially as more return to Korea. the problem of identity of ethnic Koreans manifests itself in several aspects of the modern world. It influences Koreans' perception of themselves by creating differences in cultural, social, and political spheres of life. Recently, more and more ethnic Koreans have been returning to their historical homeland. Therefore, it is important for people to know their belonging to a certain nationality.*

**Keywords:** *Ethnic Koreans, culture, history, identity.*

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## Introduction

Identity - what is it? The identity of ethnic Koreans, especially Koryo-saram (고려 사람), is noteworthy within South Korea's rich history and culture. Native Koreans call those who grew up outside Korea "kyeoppo" (교포), distinguishing among them: jaeil-kyoppo (재일교포) - Koreans in Japan, jaemi-kyoppo (재미교포) - American Koreans, joseonchok-kyoppo (조선족교포) - Chinese Koreans, and others. Ethnic Koreans ended up in Russia and CIS countries due to various circumstances and are divided into North and South ethnic Koreans. These groups developed significant differences in language, cuisine, names, and mentality, creating an identity challenge involving self-determination and belonging.

## History of Ethnic Koreans

In 1860, the Beijing Treaty brought Russia a border with North Korea, leading to Korean immigration for agricultural land. By 1917, 90,000 Koreans lived in Russia. The 1937 deportation moved them to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, necessitating Russian language skills. Post-1945, Koreans from annexed Sakhalin joined. Rehabilitation (1953-1957) saw Koreans in universities; by 1989, their higher education rate doubled the Soviet average. Post-USSR collapse, many moved from Central Asia to Russia, with Sakhalin Koreans primarily heading to South Korea.

## Ethnic Korean Culture

Previously, ethnic Koreans had the same names and surnames as native Koreans. But after immigrating to Russia, everything gradually began to change. To make it easier to obtain a Russian passport, Koreans adopted the Orthodox faith. From here, ancient church names began to appear among them. But why do ethnic and indigenous Koreans have such a difference in surnames? Differences began to appear due to the rules of Russian transcription. Russian and Korean pronunciation. For example, the surname "Choi" in Korean sounds like "Choi" (최), the surnames: "Lee", "Ni" in Korean are pronounced as "Yi" (이), "Nogai", "Ro" are actually pronounced as "No" (노). It is also not uncommon to hear the surnames of ethnic Koreans that end in "-gai". Among the native Koreans, you will not hear this ending. "Gai" means family (가). In the past, people pronounced people's names with respect. Therefore, when introducing someone, it was necessary to pronounce his family. For example, your name is Yoo Seung Hyun. You would have been introduced as: Seung Hyun from the Yu family.

## Kitchen

The cuisine of ethnic Koreans amazes with its variety of tastes, seasonings and unique traditional dishes. Despite the huge amount of time, it has not lost its zest, but some changes have still occurred. You will not find many dishes of ethnic Koreans in the diet of indigenous Koreans. But similarities are still present. For example, the basis of any diet is rice. You can find a porridge cooker in the house of any Korean. Spicy Chinese cabbage salad - kimchi. Soy paste soups are popular. Russian Koreans use it to make "puktyai", "megityamuri", and indigenous Koreans - "tendan" (된장찌개). The names of the dishes may differ even among ethnic Koreans. For example, noodles with various additives are called "kuksi" by northern ethnic Koreans, and southern Koreans, like indigenous Koreans, call this dish "kuksu".

Soups and dishes. Shiryakchamuri is a soy soup with dried leaves. Tedekugi is a tomato soup with dumplings. Sunde - blood sausage. Pegodya - steamed pork or beef pies. Chugi is overcooked rice, which is most often consumed during colds. Since overcooked rice is bland, soy sauce is added to the dish. Ethnic Koreans call it tirei (North Korean version) or kandiai (South Korean version). In the past, many ethnic Koreans lived in poverty. They did not have the ingredients for the soup, so the Koreans began to drink water instead. Thus, such a dish as "pabimuri" appeared.

Salads. Carrot-cha is a carrot salad, which has also gained particular popularity in Russia. Kadi-cha - stewed eggplants. Kosari-cha is a fern salad. Panchani - spicy salad of raw fish and radish and many others

Sweets. Chinpeni are sweet, flat steamed buns. Kaduri is brushwood doused with honey. Chartogi is rice bread made from boiled glutinous rice with sprinkles of grated beans.

### **Dialect**

Ethnic Koreans have their own unique language - Koryomal (고려말). Previously, Koryo-saram spoke the Hangyeom dialect, which could be heard in North Korea. But nowadays, Russian Koreans do not speak the pure language of that time.

Basically, the koryomal is spoken by representatives of the older generation. They combine in their speech both North Korean (Joseonmal) and the dialect of ethnic Koreans.

The middle generation can understand and partially use koryomal, as they often heard this language in childhood. But their knowledge is not as good as that of their parents.

The younger generation rarely uses koryomal, and some do not even know it. Gradually, people began to forget the significance of the dialect, which is an integral part of the culture and identity of ethnic Koreans.

Koryomal has 2 varieties: Hamgem dialect (northern) and Yugeun dialect (southern). Since there are many more North ethnic Koreans, the Hamgem dialect is mainly used. Yugeun dialect is close to the Seoul dialect, so some words may sound completely different. Also, the speech of the southerners sounds softer. Due to which there are significant differences in the pronunciation of vowels and consonants. For example, "oneul" (오늘) and "onur" (오눌). Both words are translated in the same way - today, but the first version sounds much softer than the second.

Examples of commonly used words:

Family members. Adibay - the younger brother of the parent, uncle, adya - the younger sister of the parent, aunt, samchun - uncle (Sakhalin dialect), gomu - aunt (Sakhalin dialect), madabay - elder brother of the parent, madame - elder sister of the parent, abai - grandfather, amya - grandmother, minuri - daughter-in-law.

Meal. Megi - seaweed, chai - soybean paste, tubu - tofu, becha - Chinese cabbage, pabi - boiled rice, kamachi - burnt rice

Objects and things. Khashi - chopsticks (Yugean dialect), pegya - pillow, padji - pants and others.

Unfortunately, the Koromal have no future. The dialect of ethnic Koreans can become a dead language. To preserve the language, it is necessary to use it constantly. But nowadays, there is no point in using the Hamgyom and Yugym dialects. According to statistics, every year the number of Koreans who consider Korean an important language is rapidly falling. To date, it is very difficult to find someone who could fully speak this dialect. Also, many words and expressions have lost their meaning and power over time. The vocabulary of the dialect does not expand, but on the contrary narrows. From all of the above, we can conclude that due to the lack of interest and the spread of the dialect of ethnic Koreans, it will soon acquire the status of a dead language.

### **Inference**

The Koryo-saram are an amazing people who are distinguished by extraordinary diligence, responsiveness and determination. Despite significant changes, ethnic Koreans continue to maintain their national traditions and the unique culture of their ethnic group. The uniqueness of the Koryo-saram culture lies in the fact that it has managed to combine the values of Korean culture and the Russian spirit. But this mixing also brought the risk that ethnic Koreans could lose their future by assimilating into another ethnicity. Therefore, it is important to preserve the history of the emergence of this culture for future generations. The current generation of ethnic Koreans also needs to be educated. To help them resolve any internal conflicts related to the identity of the Koryo-Saram. Since not all ethnic Koreans will live in Korea, but also in other countries. Each member of the Koryo-saram will have his or her own unique worldview and situation. In any case, ethnic Koreans will always be a separate nationality. In South Korea, it is kyoppo, and in the CIS countries, it is goryeo-saram. Our mentality is not understood by anyone in the world except us. You need to be proud of your uniqueness and being a Koryo-sara.

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