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**DOCUMENTATION OF ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: ASSOCIATIVE DICTIONARY OF THE YAKUT LANGUAGE**

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**References:** 3rd International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference on Social Sciences and Arts SGEM 2016, [www.sgemsocial.org](http://www.sgemsocial.org/), SGEM2016 Conference Proceedings, ISBN 978-619-7105-72-8 / ISSN 2367-5659, 24-31 August, 2016, Book 1 Vol. 3, 211-216 pp, DOI: 10.5593/SGEMSOCIAL2016/B13/S03.028

**ABSTRACT**
In the context of global process of a modern life the indigenous peoples are vulnerable, their languages and cultures are endangered. The paper is devoted to study the ways of documentation of endangered languages, namely by the free association experiment in Yakut language.
The associative verbal nets reveal the peculiarities of spiritual and material culture, ethnic stereotypes, traditional beliefs and the specificity of an ethnic world view. One way to externalize language consciousness is by means of the free-association experiment. From the data obtained through such an experiment it is possible to describe the nature of a particular ethnic group’s world view – i.e. the knowledge which the members of the group of a given culture rely on in their verbal and nonverbal behavior.
The study of linguistic cognition with the help of the free-association experiment makes it possible to derive the systematic organization of the content of some culture’s collective consciousness, which is reflected in its language, and shows the uniqueness and non-repetitiveness of every culture’s world view. The culture is a set of distinctive spiritual and material traits that characterize a society and social group, embracing literature and arts as well as ways of life, value systems, traditions and beliefs. Thus, the study of language consciousness with the help of associative dictionaries allows to derive the content and functioning of the language in multicultural community, the peculiarity of its interactions, and in this way allows to document the language.
The free association experiments are conducted with the students of the Yakut ethnic background. Verbal stimuli were chosen from a list of 112 words originally drawn from the Slavic dictionary enriched by the words reflecting the important for the northern culture meanings (e.g. deer, mountain, tundra, horse, deep, milk, snow etc.). In total each experimental questionnaire contained 140 verbal stimuli.

**Keywords:** linguistic consciousness, associative dictionary, documentation

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