ACCULTURATION ORIENTATIONS AMONG RUSSIAN YOUTH IN FINLAND

ANITA STASULANE

Director of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Daugavpils University, Latvia
E-mail: anita.stasulane@du.lv

Abstract – The number of Russian immigrants to Finland has already been steadily increasing since 1990 when President MaunoKoivis to of Finland launched an initiative aimed at facilitating repatriation of Ingrian Finns living in the territories incorporated into the USSR. Today Russian-speaking immigrants account for approximately 1.3% of Finland's population. Since Finland remains an attractive destination for immigrants, particularly after the war started by Russia against Ukraine (2022), it is expected that the number of the Russian immigrants will increase further.The aim of this paper is to examine the acculturation orientations among Russian-speaking youth who arrived in Finland together with their parents or were born in Finland shortly after immigration. The paper is based on the data of qualitative interviews (n 16) conducted within the framework of the fieldwork carried out in the central part of Finland, from 1 October to 31 December 2021. It explores the acculturation orientations among Russian immigrant youth approached from the angle of the festive culture.Research into festive culture plays a role in exploring immigrant communities, allowing identification of the network of social ties, which reflects connection of immigrants with both the host culture and the heritage culture.Building knowledge by mapping customs, traditions and novelty of celebrations, the paper analyses acculturation orientations among Russian immigrant youth in Finland. The interviews with young people conducted during the fieldwork provide an insight into the festivities celebrated in their families: how the Russian community preserves its traditions of celebrating festivities and what the manifestations of the interaction between Russian and Finnish festive culture are in Finland. The answers to these questions help identify the acculturation orientations of the younger generation coming from the Russian community.