

MONGOLIAN NOMADS: PROHIBITIONS AND NATURAL CULTS

Taboo Phenomena and Their Language Expressions

This dissertation has been created on the interface of the three disciplines: ethnology, linguistic and Mongolian studies. It studies tabooed areas of life of Mongolian shepherds, related mainly to worshipping of the natural cults and to some significant cognitive models applied across the culture. The core of this work is the analysis of data collected repeatedly during field researches based on recording the language expressions of speakers and on a participative observing of the author. Prohibitions (taboos) which play role in the everyday life of the shepherds in the Mongolian steppe emanate primarily from the relation of humans with the nature which surrounds them. The aim of the work is to shed light on the question how the systematic nature of prohibitions (ceeriin yos) is anchored in the conceptual framework. In this the context of the Mongolian shepherd culture as a whole has been emphasised.

Cognitive-linguistic approach represents a significant component of methodology, a systematic analysis of expressions which are understood as metaphors. Descriptions of particular events, recorded in the field research diary, enable an understanding of some linkages of conceptual structures and also depicting of the cultural context and the human behaviour in the everyday life. The main part of this work consists of the analysis of the metaphors in concepts LIFE, THOUGHTS, and ANGER, directed at a number of cognitive models through which the given models are being understood in the Mongolian culture. The analysis confirms the hypothesis that some conceptualizations of the Mongolian shepherds correspond with their counterparts in the Western culture-mainly those based on the human physiology-whereas some are different-those dependant on the cultural context.