

Internal Factors of Code Switching in the Buryat-Russian Bilingual Discourse

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This paper deals with investigation of one group of factors determining minority languages vitality in general, and code-switching, in particular – the internal factors. As internal factors I interpret four factor groups: psycholinguistic, pragmatic, subjective, and identity factor. These factors of code-switching in a minority – majority language contact are less investigated not only in the Buryat case, but also in other multilingual situations in Russia and other parts of the world. Therefore, the study of *why* and *how* bilingual Buryats code-switch now, twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet empire, provides insights about many aspects of language as well as modern Buryat and all-Russian society. For instance, bilingual speakers switch from the Buryat language into Russian, because they possess insufficient language competence in L1 (Buryat) and high language competence in L2 (Russian).