

Ethno-Political Discourse as Segment of Modern Northern Caucasus Socio-Political Discourse

Maya Artashesovna Astvatsaturova and Dmitry Sergeevich Chekmenev

Pyatigorsk State Linguistic University, Pyatigorsk, Russia

Abstract: This article is devoted to the issues determined by ethno-political discourse which represent significant segment of socio-political discourse. Its up-to-date character is determined by innovative development of modern inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relations in Russian Federation and in the whole world taking into consideration new risks and challenges. The article covers problems, genesis, plots and actors of modern ethno-political discourse as well as conditions, determinants and factors of its development. In practical part of the article legal aspect of ethno-political discourse is analyzed through example of Stavropol territory as constituent entity of North Caucasian Federal District of the Russian Federation. This analysis allowed to make out 3 types of contents of legal component of ethno-political discourse: system, institutional and project.

Key words: Discourse • Socio-political discourse • Structure of socio-political discourse • Ethno-political discourse • Inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relationship • Ethnic character • Ethnos • Ethnic group • Inter-ethnic contradictions and conflicts • North Caucasian ethno-political risks, s-p and ethno-political stability • regulation of inter-ethnic relations

INTRODUCTION

Significant area of focus of theoretic-methodological and applied political knowledge is study of discourse as a component of political processes and institutions. The notion "discourse" itself considered from phenomenological and institutional point of view determines 3 main approaches to its character and contents as well as to techniques and technologies of its organization.

In accordance with the 1st approach discourse is a fragment of reality which has time span, logics of deployment. 2nd approach considers discourse as a special kind of communication not only written but oral as well in which verbal and non-verbal components are of equal importance. 3rd approach is integrative, it combines two mentioned above approaches. [1].

In scientific understanding there exists a narrower notion – "political discourse" - by which we understand communicative interaction of political entities intended for reaching agreement about their positions and elaboration of common objectives [2]. In scientific literature you also

can come across with "social discourse" by which we understand communicative process, producing line of reasoning in order to defend private interests and aimed for axiological-normative concord [3].

Methods. In terms of inter-disciplinary research methodology we use notion "socio-political discourse", by which we understand the sphere of communicative interactions of political entities (subjects), as participators of political process and other subjects of socio-relations with different degree of institutionalization, which result in elaboration of generalized strategies of social development.

The structure of socio-political discourse is formed by the following elements: subjects, contents, socio-political context, forms, channels, means and functions. In particular such subjects are power bodies, political, economical and cultural elites, socio-political associations and organizations (NCOs first of all) [4].

Main part. Ethno-political discourse is a significant segment of socio-political discourse. Its up-to-date character is determined by innovative development of modern and inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relations.

Ethno-political discourse manifests itself in multi-ethnic multi-component states and different-status multi-cultural societies, first of all, in the course of political crisis and transitions [5].

For example dynamics of ethnos and ethnic groups in Russia today to a great extent is determined by Soviet and post-Soviet ethno-political heritage, particularities of which to a great extent influence modern socio-political trend and corresponding to it discourse [6] Ethno-political discourse is to a great extent determined by the necessity to preserve socio-political and ethno-political stability and by the context of Russian identification project and the project of civil solidarity [7].

Russian identification project suggests satisfaction of social interests of nations and ethnic groups and optimization of their competition; neutralization of conflictogenic resources and conflictogenic factors prevention; modernization of the system of management and stabilization on the base of traditional Russian historical-cultural values.

This refers to North Caucasian region to the full extent in which post-Soviet "ethnic and confessional Renaissance" has obtained distinct institutional forms. In this connection analytics of ethno-political discourse in its real manifestation and myth-like interpretations seems to us up-to-date and practice-oriented. Key problems of this discourse are determined by phenomenology of ethnicity which as social identity and social marker demonstrates world-wide, regional and local living ability [8].

Formation in 2010 of NCFD (North Caucasian federal district) provided new conditions, determinants and factors for development of ethno-political discourse; first of all in terms of practice and applications.

Modern social dynamics of NCFD, available threats and risks (terrorism, national and religious extremism, nationalism, xenophobia, as well as inter-ethnic and ethno-political contradictions and conflicts) need innovative monitoring, project work, forecasts fully corresponding to the needs of socio-economic and socio-political dynamics of North Caucasian society. Socio-political and political-managerial message of this dynamics declares reinforcement of Russian identity, preservation of ethno-cultural diversity, development of interaction of nations while using opportunities of political and democratic transit and neutralizing its risks [9].

Modern ethno-political discourse of NCFD as other landscapes of social consciousness was formed in conditions of manifestation of ethno-separatism, national

and religious extremism, nationalism, xenophobia, mutual claims and "memory wars" of nations, ethnic groups and subgroups. These manifestations have poured themselves into ethnic and ethno-political contradictions, conflicts comprising most part of social conflicts all over the world as manifestations of politicized ethnic identity.

In the same time ethno-political risks of North Caucasian region have some positive sequences. For example it provoked scientific, research, expert interest in inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relationships in their "peaceful" and "non-peaceful" forms, as well as formation of modern independent integral regional scientific knowledge, agenda of which to a great extent is of ethnic and confessional character and similar to the agenda of world socio-political knowledge. [10]

Ethno-political discourse shows considerable shift in contents from traditional historical-cultural, ethnographic, territory-studying, folklore-literature plots to novation plots. Among them:

Positioning of regions in newest geo-political architecture of Great Caucasus, Caspiy-Chernomorsk region. After collapse of USSR and formation of new independent states, the territory of NCFD has become boundary area with Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan etc. This is especially actual in time of new Islamisation, radicalization of Islam and attention from political circles of Turkey, Syria, UAE to their "relatives" (ethnic communities) in North Caucasian region. Development and realization of road maps and formats of cultural, political cooperation of countries, regions and zones with simultaneous neutralization of dangerous factors of possible external political invasion of external actors into Russian inter-state processes in North Caucasus, in NCFD, has been a novation approach.

Realization of federative reform, process of enlargement of constituent entities of RF, evolution in appointment of the Governors of entities (election or appointment). Here positive resources of Russian federalism are implemented, principles and forms of federative relations (horizontal and vertical) and conflicting aspects of federal Center and entities of NCFD and of entities between each other are solved, first of all, in the part of territorial claims. On a new level combination of principle of national-state organization and principle of administrative-territorial organization as well national-cultural self-determination is being implemented.

In the same time in ethnic federalism there are conflictogenic aspect of inter-ethnic relations and secession resource as a threat to integrity and sovereignty of Russian Federation in North Caucasus.

In a special format ethno-political discourse reflects fierce debate on the constitution, perspectives of development of two districts – North Caucasian and Southern - accentuating the location, role, status, problems, social perspectives and social health of nations and ethnic groups (first of all, Russian population as well as native people), in a lesser degree diasporas of non-Russian origin [11].

Constant problem of ethno-political discourse is condition of inter-ethnic relations and contradictions as well as influence, impact and control over situation and conflicts in this sphere. Here keen and emotional attitude of North Caucasian community towards determination and effects of ethnic conflicts is felt; it is manifested in regard to dynamics of inter- and counter-action of ethnic groups; to manifestation of inter-ethnic competition in political and power relations; to techniques of ethno-conflictological management; to techniques and technologies of prevention of inter-ethnic and inter-confessional hostility.

Ethno-political discourse of NCFD is followed by new contents of ethno-confessional and state-religious relationship, first of all active positioning of religious institutions, increase of population's interest in religious issues, extension of religious practices. In the same time in ethno-political discourse such problem processes are presented as development of new forms of social service and socio-political participation of religious institutions; discord between religious institutions, both different and of one nomination. Contradictions between traditional nominations and new and newest believes, sectarian doctrinal statements, opposition of traditional religions and religious institutions to radicalization of religious world view principles and habitual religious practices are also reflected. One of the future trend of social and political process is contradiction between civil (including atheism) and religious (including those who go to church) parts of regional population etc. In the same time North Caucasian community is concentrating its attention on essential and functional aspects of identification religion and politics, belief and socio-political processes.

Key aspect of ethno-political discourse is its legal aspect whose content was exemplified by Stavropol territory, a part of NCFD.

Direct effect of deployment of legal aspect of ethno-political discourse in the sphere of regulation of inter-ethnic relations on the level of a constituent entity of RF is legal framework for regulation of such relations in Stavropol territory.

Performed analysis allowed to make out 3 types of the content of legal component of ethno-political discourse in the mentioned above sphere – system, institutional and project contents.

The first type - system content – we refer regulatory acts which contain system principles of legal regulation of inter-ethnic relations. These principles legally determine the foundations of formation of a specific segment of socio-political relations system - in our case - of inter-ethnic relations. These principles are as follows:

- Orientation to achievement of concord between ethnic groups;
- Equality of rights and freedoms of a man and a citizen regardless of nationality.

The key document in this group is Code (Main law) of Stavropol Region. In preamble of North Caucasus Code the ambition to establish civil peace social and ethnic concord in the Territory is emphasized. The Code of Stavropol Region also declares that equality of rights and freedoms of a man and citizen must be provided regardless of sex, nationality, language and origination.

System type is a Law of Stavropol Region dated August 1, 2003 #29-kz "About Cossacks in Stavropol territory" which regulates social relations connected with activity of Cossack communities and at the territory of Stavropol Region which is intended for reinforcement of principles of state support of Cossacks in Stavropol Region. Therefore it established not only provisions regulating functioning of Cossacks as special institution of civil society but in the same time reflected political positions of governmental bodies of the Territory in relation to this institution.

Law of Stavropol Region dated December 18, 2007 #69-kz "About participation of citizens in keeping law and order" is of importance in this connection, it regulates order and conditions of participation of RF citizens in keeping of law and order at the Territory of Stavropol Region; it was a response to objective request of people to define forms of their participation in keeping law and order.

This law defines individual and collective participation of people which in particular includes help to migration authorities in performance of measures intended to find out and eliminate violations of migration registration of citizens in the places of their location or living.

Second type - institutional content - is regulatory acts intended for formation of institutional units included in the process of regulation of inter-ethnic relationship.

Therefore this content determines the following institutional principles of ethnic relationship regulation system in Stavropol territory:

- Spreading of system of inter-ethnic relationship over all subjects;
- November 28, 2013 definition of object (target group) of regulation;
- Differential characteristic (dynamics) of regulation.

The most distinct example of this type is Resolution of the Governor of Stavropol Region dated August 30, 2005 # 493 "About the Stavropol Region Governmental Commission on inter-ethnic relations" This is an advisory and consultancy governmental body intended to facilitate interaction between governmental bodies and public associations, consider the most important aspects of living activity of Stavropol Region ethnic groups.

3rd type is project content of political and legal discourse in the sphere of regulation of inter-ethnic relationship, to which we shall refer regulatory acts intended for definition, formation and implementation of significant measures in the sphere of regulation of inter-ethnic relations.

Project principles are as follows:

- Principle of scalability;
- Principle of target-setting;
- Principle of stages;
- Principle of values which suggests definition of specific indicators in activity;
- Principle of scenario which suggests building-up of scenarios of situation development when definite set of measures is used.

For example project content is of a key role in the Resolution of Stavropol Region government dated February 18, 2011 #67-rp "About approval of main ways of implementation of state national policy in Stavropol territory for 2011-2015".

This document first of all formulates particularities of inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relations in Stavropol territory which is viewed as multi-ethnic region and its multi-ethnicity is increasing.

This document gives general estimate of the condition of inter-ethnic and ethno-confessional relations in Stavropol territory. Therefore the problems are emphasized which demand effective managerial impact. In its final part this document defines main focus areas intended for realization of state policy in Stavropol territory, they are political-legal, social-economic, informative, cultural-educational areas of focus and area of focus connected with active interaction with the institutions of public society.

To project type of content of political-legal discourse we refer Resolution of the Government of Stavropol Region dated May 18, 2011 #188-p "About approval of territorial targeted program: Harmonization of inter-ethnic relations in Stavropol territory for 2013 -2015" providing measures intended for support of national-cultural autonomies; socially significant activity of religious organizations, realization by them of socially-significant cultural and educational programs and events.

Special example of project content of political-legal discourse is Resolution of Stavropol Region Government dated July 20, 2011 #282-p "About targeted territorial program Stavropolie - antiterrorism for 2012-2014": which contains elements connected with regulation of inter-ethnic relations.

For example, in accordance with this program potential terroristic threats in the Territory are as follows: negative processes of migration, including growth of the number of illegal migrants oncoming into the Territory from former states of CIS, as well as inflow of foreigners and Russian Federation citizens from terrorism and extremism regions.

Inference: Socio-political discourse is a sphere of communicative interaction of political entities as participators of political process as well as other subjects of social relations in the result of which generalized strategies of social development are elaborated. The contents of socio-political discourse is formed by socially-significant themes correlating with problems which are of key importance for all subjects of socio-political discourse.

Significant segment of socio-political discourse is ethno-political discourse up-to-date character of which is determined by innovative development of modern inter-ethnic and inter-confessional relations. Ethno-political discourse manifests itself in multi-ethnic multi-component states and different-status multi-cultural societies; this

segment of discourse to a great extent determined by the necessity to keep socio-political and ethno-political stability.

Modern ethno-political discourse of NCFD of Russian Federation while having some contradictions and risks has its own independent expertise-and scalability value because it not only follows but determines new content of ethno-confessional and state-religious relations in the region.

Our study allowed to specify legal component of ethno-political discourse in Stavropol territory which demonstrates itself, first of all, in differentiation of content (system, institutional, project) and secondly, in the content's aspects connected with particularities of inter-ethnic relations formed in the region in the context of general political North Caucasus discourse.

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