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**Final assignment**

**Methodology of Social Science I**

**The identity of Russian minority in Finland (Turku) and Estonia (Tartu).**

**Comparative analysis.**

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After the collapse of the USSR in 1990th not only the geopolitical changes in the territory of the Eastern Europe took place but also the status of former Soviet nationalities was transformed. New interactions between them and the western part of Europe emerged. The titular nation of former Soviet republics aspired to build the nation state. Thus arguments concerning the status and rights of different ethnoses among the new national state arouse. The question of receiving the citizenship was another problem in some Baltic States. Still the solution to this problem is not found. According to Estonian statistical data (Source: Ministry of the Interior, Population Register) the number of residents of undetermined citizenship was 87, 833 on 1 March 2014.[[1]](#footnote-1) Language issue concerning the language proficiency in order to receive the citizenship or work has also become problematical in Baltic States.

On the other hand, the position of Russian speaking minority in Finland to a great extent is opposite. The system of Finnish legal regulation of the national (ethnic) minority status and indigenous peoples is an example of a balanced approach.[[2]](#footnote-2) Finland has gone through changes of national ideas and values to the formation of a balanced national policy and tolerance between different national, ethnic and religious communities which are stated in the Constitution of Finland (Paragraph 17).

Taking into account these cases, it will be relevant to consider identity of Russian speaking minority in such controversial circumstances. The area of study will cover population of cities Turku (Finland) and Tartu (Estonia).

In my research I am going to use definition provided by M. Guibernau “… national identity is a modern phenomenon of a fluid and dynamic nature, one by means of which a community sharing a particular set of characteristics is led to the subjective belief that its members are ancestrally related.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Research question:

Based on historical experience, the legislative framework, socio-economic conditions and empirical data to consider if there is any difference between the identity of Russian-speaking minorities in Finland (Turku) and Estonia (Tartu)? If yes, what are the main differences and how are they expressed? What are the factors influenced the formation of the identity of Russian speakers in Turku and Tartu?

Research task:

To conduct a comparative analysis of the Russian-speaking minority’s identity in Finland (Turku) and Estonia (Tartu).

Hypothesis: Socio-economic satisfaction affects the minority group identity in nation state.

In other words there is a connection between level of life satisfaction and identity. I claim that the higher people are satisfied with their life and have positive attitude towards their future at the same time the stronger feeling of identity with majority of the country’s population they have. Therefore minority group tend to associate themselves with titular nation of the country of their residence in case of high level of life satisfaction.

There are several research made in the sphere of life satisfaction and identity development. Shan Wei stated in his work that there is a link between life satisfaction and identification based on the example of Ethnic Minorities and Han Chinese in China. “Minority groups are more psychologically alienated from the political regime and less likely to believe that the government is responsive to their needs. They trust the government less than the Han, and in general are less likely than the Han to identify themselves as “Chinese.”[[4]](#footnote-4) Flavio F. Marsiglia, Jaime M. Booth, Adrienne Baldwin and Stephanie Ayers considered the influence of life satisfaction, resilience, mental health, familism on acculturation and identity process as significant.[[5]](#footnote-5) Maykel Verkuyten mentioned minority group members can develop a stronger identification with their own ethnic group in case of felling themselves discriminated and unsatisfied with their lives “Minority members who feel unwelcome or discriminated against are likely to be less satisfied with their life in the country of settlement. Group identification implies a sense of belonging that might attenuate or buffer the negative effects of perceived discrimination on life satisfaction”. [[6]](#footnote-6) While collecting the information I did not find any comparative research made in relation to Russian-speaking minority in Finland and Estonia. Thus I consider my topic is quite new and helpful for confirmation of above-mentioned ideas.

The key conceptual phenomena that I am going to examine are minority group identity in a nation state and level of life satisfaction where minority group identity is dependent variable and level of life satisfaction is independent variable.

The minority group can be operationalized as it stated by D. Robotham “a group whose unique cultural characteristics are perceived to be different from those characterizing the dominant groups in society”.[[7]](#footnote-7) As the term is used in the social sciences, this subordinancy and lack of power are the chief defining characteristics of a minority group.

Identity “Identity refers to both group self-awareness of common unique characteristics and individual self-awareness of inclusion in such a group. Persons and groups often adhere to multiple and fluid identities, features of which may be selectively relevant in specific social situations.”[[8]](#footnote-8)

As a consequence of above-mentioned the minority group identity is self-awareness of common unique characteristics and personal feeling of belonging to such community developed inside the group of people that considered being different from dominant groups in society.

Nowadays there are two main approaches to identity issue. The first one is called primordialist. According to this theory identity is something intrinsic and inherent. Blood and descent, religion and language, custom and culture are very important in terms of indentifying oneself with exact ethnicity or nation. Therefore, identity is something static and non-changingIn terms of neo-primordialism ethnic/nation consciousness is only realised when the group is threatened (culturally, politically, socially) by external.[[9]](#footnote-9)

The second approach is instrumentalist or constructivist and defines identity as a created sentiment, based on social, political and cultural resources. This method provides flexible, manipulative, processual, ever-changing perception of identity issue. From cultural constructionism point of view the formation of groups is function of shared ‘culture’. From political constructionism point of view production of ‘culture’ is a result of elite-driven hegemonic.[[10]](#footnote-10)

In my research I am going to keep the idea that identity is not something fixed and not changeable.

In order to measure the minority group identity I use a list of questions based on The Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM) produced by prof. Jean S. Phinney in 1992 (questions from 1-3 in my questioner). The technique been used in dozens of studies and has consistently shown good reliability across a wide range of ethnic groups and ages. “It appears that the measure can best be thought of as comprising two factors, ethnic identity search (a developmental and cognitive component) and affirmation, belonging, and commitment (an affective component). Two factors, with this version, are as follows: ethnic identity search, items

1, 2, 4, 8, and 10; affirmation, belonging, and commitment, items 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12.” [[11]](#footnote-11) Unfortunately the official translations of the measure exist into Spanish and French only, thus I translated it into Russian by my own. On the other hand, no written permission is required for use of the measure which allows me to use this measure freely.

Life satisfaction is the way a person evaluates his or her life and how he or she feels about where it is going in the future. It is a measure of well-being. Life satisfaction is having a favorable attitude of one's life as a whole rather than an assessment of current feelings.[[12]](#footnote-12)

The most important characteristic of quality of life is subjective wellbeing in many interdisciplinary researches.[[13]](#footnote-13) E. Diener and D. Myers allocated cognitive and affective (emotional) components of subjective wellbeing. The cognitive component includes the life satisfaction in general which depends on satisfaction with various spheres of life, such as a family, health, work, the income, etc. The affective component of subjective wellbeing is connected with positive or negative emotions in relation to various spheres of life or vital events.[[14]](#footnote-14) Level of subjective wellbeing is defined on the basis of a wide range of indicators, and only the part from them gives in to an objective assessment. It is GDP per capita, crime rate, level of the income, etc. Other part can be estimated by means of subjective representations of people concerning health, the income, crime rate and life in general.[[15]](#footnote-15)

Objective and subjective indicators of wellbeing are connected with each other; however there are distinctions between these connections that depend on exact country, cultural, economical situation, etc. [[16]](#footnote-16)

In my research I am going to measure both objective and subjective components of life satisfaction. Information about objective components such as GDP per capita, crime rate, level of the income can be taken from official state statistical data basis (<http://www.stat.ee/en> and <http://www.stat.fi/> ). I consider these sources of information reliable. In terms of subjective wellbeing competent such as life satisfaction in general will be measured in survey (question N 21 in a questioner). The rest of indicators, for example satisfaction with various spheres of life, such as a family, health, work, the income will be measured in survey as well (questions N 17, 18. 19, 20, 22, 24, 28 in questioner). It is possible that I will make the index out of collecting results, I have not decided yet.

I will use few-N comparative study with most similar system design. My cases will be Finland (Turku) and Estonia (Tartu). I think these cases are suitable for comparative study analysis due to similarities between countries (see the table below).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estonia** | **Finland** |
| Formation of national discourse took place in the XIX century | + | + |
| Location in the Baltic Region | + | + |
| Former Soviet republic | + | - |
| Baltic Finnic branch of the Uralic language family | + | + |
| EU membership | + | + |
| Small in terms of population | + | + |
| Russian-speakers officially recognized as a minority | - | - |

In a course of collection the data I am going to inquire 200 random Russian-speaking from Tartu and the same amount from Turku. I will try to gather answers from people of different gender, age and social status.

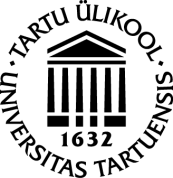
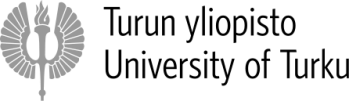
I hope that a link between minority group identity (if most of people identify themselves as Russian and at the same time I will see their attitude towards being Russian in Estonia or Finland) and their life satisfaction will emerge from the research design type I proposed.

There are several Russian-speaking organizations in Tartu: Tartu School of Aleksander Pushkin (Tartu Aleksander Puškini Kool) Uus 54, 50606 Tartu http://apkool.ee/; Tartu Annelinna Gümnaasium, Kaunase pst 68, 50708 Tartu, http://www.annelinn.edu.ee/. There is Department of Slavic philology at University of Tartu, http://www.ut.ee/FLVE/ which also can provide access to Russian-speaking people. I can ask people in the street to answer my questions.

In Turku there are several Russian speaking organization and clubs as well: Russian Club of the city of Turku, Koulukatu 30, Turku <http://www.turunvk.info/p/blog-page.html>; Organization of youth initiatives support "Sirius" located in Turku [www.siriusinfo.fi](http://www.siriusinfo.fi). Turun suomenkielinen työväenopisto (Turku Adult Education Centre) provides Finnish-speaking coursers for Finnish citizens speaking other languages. All these organizations are a suitable base of Russian-speakers to start with making the interviews. I also hope to receive some information from the Russian Consulate in Turku concerning the contacts of Russian-speaking residents. In addition there are several Russian-speaking people who are familiar to me.

I consider these sources quite available, because my native language is Russian and for present moment I have already collected 40 responds from Russian-speakers in Tartu and around 150 is already in process. I will continue gathering answers from Turku in February.

**List of questions.**



Dear respondent!

We ask you to take a survey and answer the questions in a proposed questionnaire. Your answers will be used for writing a thesis for the degree of Master of Arts in Baltic Sea Region Studies. Complete confidentiality of your responses is guaranteed. Subsequently your answers will be used only in conjunction with the responses of other respondents. Your participation in this survey will help us a lot.

1. Please fill in: In terms of nation group, I consider myself to be (*May be several answers*): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Use the numbers below to indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.*

(4) Strongly agree     (3) Agree     (2) Disagree     (1) Strongly disagree

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name: | Grade |
| 1. | I have spent time trying to find out more about my nation group, such as its  history, traditions, and customs |  |
| 2. | I am active in organizations or social groups that include mostly members  of my own nation group. |  |
| 3. | I have a clear sense of my nation background and what it means for me. |  |
| 4. | I think a lot about how my life will be affected by my nation group membership. |  |
| 5. | I am happy that I am a member of the group I belong to. |  |
| 6. | I have a strong sense of belonging to my own nation group. |  |
| 7. | I understand pretty well what my nation group membership means to me. |  |
| 8. | In order to learn more about my nation background, I have often talked to other  people about my ethnic group. |  |
| 9. | I have a lot of pride in my nation group. |  |
| 10. | I participate in cultural practices of my own group, such as special food, music  or customs. |  |
| 11. | I feel a strong attachment towards my own nation group. |  |
| 12. | I feel good about my cultural or nation background. |  |

2.     13- My father's ethnicity is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
3.     14- My mother's ethnicity is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **4.** **Your gender:** | **5. Your age**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years |  |
| Male  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |
| Female \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |

**6. What is your marital status?**

Never been married / married \_\_\_\_\_\_

Single / Married \_\_\_\_

Live together/ Co - habitant, but are not registered \_\_\_\_\_

There permanent partner/ Boyfriend/ Girlfriend, but do not live together \_\_\_\_

Divorced / live separately/ \_\_\_\_

Widower / Widow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** **Birthplace:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**8. How many years do you live in Estonia?**

Write the number of full years: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**9. What languages other than your mother tongue do you speak and what is your level?** *(Please tick the appropriate option for each language)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Do not speak at all | Understand a little but do not speak | Both understand and speak a little | Understand, speak and write | Fluent user |
| Estonian |  |  |  |  |  |
| English |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finnish |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |  |  |  |

**10. How do you estimate your level of Estonian language?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Good | Intermediate | A little | Not at all |
| 1. | How well do you understand spoken language |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Can you read |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Can you communicate |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Can you write |  |  |  |  |

**11. What language is native for you?**

           Russian

           Estonian

           other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**12. Do you think you have enough knowledge of Estonian for living in Estonia?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**13. Which of the following religions is the closest to you?**

Orthodox □ Catholic □           Protestant □ Lutheran □             Islam  □

Buddhism, Oriental religions □        Judaism □                 Atheism □

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**14. What is your education?**

1. Primary or lower secondary

2. Professional school without giving a complete secondary education (vocational school, trade school)

3. Vocational School, giving secondary education (vocational school, technical school)

4. Secondary education (regular high school)

5. Higher education, scientific degree

6. Other (write)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**15. What is now your main activity?**

1. The employee

2. The employer (the owner of a private firm)

3. A single person (myself employer)

4. Working pensioner

5. Student, who studies and works

6. Unemployed pensioners

7. Non-working student/ studying

8. Unemployed not receiving unemployment benefits

9. Unemployed receiving unemployment benefits

10. Housewife

**16. How do you estimate your income?** □ High □ Medium □ Low

**17. What do you think, in five years the economic situation of your family, compared with the current, will be ...?**

1. Much better

2. Somewhat better

3. About the same

4. Somewhat worse

5. Much worse

6. Difficult to answer

**18. What was your personal income in the past month?** *(Please, specify)*

1. 200,00 - 500,00 euro

2. 500,00 - 1000 euro

3. 1000,00 - 1500,00 euro

4. 1500,00 - 2000 euro

5. More than 2000 euro

**19. Which of the descriptions presented, in your opinion, best describes your household income at the present time?**

1. We live well at this level of income

2. Cope at present income

3. It is difficult to cope with this level of income

4. It is very difficult to cope with this level of income

5. Difficult to answer

**20. Please, tell me, how are you satisfied ...?** *Mark one answer in each row.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Completely dissatisfied | Not very satisfied | Rather satisfied | Completely satisfied | D.A. |
| 1. | … With your job? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | … with personal safety? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | … with your accomodation? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | … Your family life? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | … Income of your family? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. | … Your relationship with your friends / loved ones? |  |  |  |  |  |

**21. Please, specify how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Completely dissatisfied |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Completely  satisfied | Difficult to answer |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |

**22. Please specify how much you agree with the following statements?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | D.A. |
| 1. | I look into the future with hope |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | What I'm doing is not recognized |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | I feel like a second-class person |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | I can defend my interests |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Because of my low income or work people look “down at me” |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. | I have no way to influence the society |  |  |  |  |  |

**23. Do you think your lifestyle and way of thinking is similar to Estonian? Why?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**24. The Constitution states that in the Estonian state power belongs to the people. Do you consider yourself as a part of the Estonian people in terms of the constitution? Why?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**25. How would you assess the position of Estonians and non-Estonians in Estonian society?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**26. How successful was so far, in your opinion, the integration of non-Estonians into Estonian society?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**27. Do you consider the lifestyle and thoughts of Estonians, compared with your ...?**

28. **Have you noticed that non-Estonians in Estonia have the same opportunities to Estonians ceteris paribus reach the next?** *Under otherwise equal conditions meant the same education, the same skills and experience.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Basically yes | Most yes | Most  no | Basically no | Difficult to answer |
| 1. | Get the job specialty |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Get to work in a public institution |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Get to leadership positions |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Achieve success in business |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Achieve success in politics |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. | Get higher education |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. | Start your business |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. | Receive for the same work the same salary |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. | Get social benefit |  |  |  |  |  |

29. **Question to those who have children. What kind of high school or grammar school in which your children are learning now?** *May be several answers*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | The school with the Estonian language learning |
| 2. | In a class with language immersion |
| 3. | Russian school where some subjects taught in Estonian |
| 4. | Russian school where some subjects are taught in the Estonian language (bilingual Gymnasium) |
| 5. | Private school with Russian language of instruction |
| 6. | The school where teaching is entirely in a foreign language |
| 7. | Not studying at this level |

**30. If you were offered to take up permanent residence in another country, in which country would you like to move?**

 First preference \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Second preference \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Thank you for your participation!

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