

Jungar Tuvan Language Revitalization and Documentation

Throughout China, ethnic minorities are under constant threat of losing their culture and language, by being forced to assimilate into the dominant Han culture and society. The Jungar Tuvas are the smallest among the ethnic groups of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in China who are trying to maintain themselves within a society which is overwhelmingly dominated by the Han Chinese, Kazaks and Mongols. The lack of official recognition of their status as a distinct nationality (*minzu*) has presented the Jungar Tuvas with formidable challenges in regard to preserving their ethnic identity and maintaining their language. This paper will review the sociolinguistic context of Jungar Tuvan by taking into consideration factors such as the number of speakers, language attitudes and the quality of documentation and the threat of immersion within these greater entities they are facing as a people. It also will discuss the survival strategy used by Jungar Tuvas and describe revitalization and documentation efforts already taking place, and discuss the future prospects of the Jungar Tuvan language.