

KAZAKİSTAN'DAKİ TÜRK AİLESİ VE NİKÂH MESELELERİ

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Özet

Bu tebliğ etnografik, sosyolojik, istatistik ve diğer mukayeseli belgeleri esas almıştır. Bu ise meseleyi her yönlü araştırmaya imkân sağlar.

Aile ve nikâh meselelerini araştırma birçok etnik gruplarla birlikte etnokültürel özelliklere sahip olan yerel Türklerin de yaşadığı çok uluslu Kazakistan'ın bağlamında çok önemlidir. Diğer yönden tek Cumhuriyet genelinde değil, aynı zamanda ailede birkaç onyıllık içinde yaşanan değişiklikler profesyonel âlimlerin dikkatini talep eder.

Bahsedilen mesele uluslararası özellikleri dikkate alarak ve etnik gruplar arası ilişkiler durumunda araştırıldı. Gelecek karı kocanın tanışma şartları, evlilik ortağını seçme özellikleri ve önemi ele alınmaktadır. Burada ayrı bir faktörle birlikte akrabalarının geleneksel rölünün üstünlüğü ile önemi görülmektedir. Gelecek eşlerin buluşma yerleri, nikâh kurma süresi ve nikâh yaşının vakti anlatılır. En sonunda aile ekolünün en alt, üstün ve ortalama yaşına dikkat edilerek anlatılır. Eğer istatistik malumatlara bakacak olursak Türk erkeklerinin üçte ikisi 20 ile 24 yaş arasında evlenmektedir. Tahminen beşte biri 25'ten 29 yaşına kadar; kadınların üçte biri 20 yaşına gelmemiş ve yarısı 20 ile 24 yaş arası nikâh kurar. Aynı zamanda genç eşlerin 2,6 ile %22,0'a kadar olanı kendi arkadaşlarıyla evlenirler. Gelinlerin çoğu kendisinden çok daha büyük erkeklerle nikâh kurarlar. Nikâh yaşı 1 ile 5 yıldan 6 ile 10 yıl ve daha çok (tahminen %20)'yi oluşturur. 2009 yılında Türklerin %66,2'si nikâh kurdu. Onların %67,4'ü erkekler ise % 65,0'i kadınlar oldu.

Bu tebliğde günümüzdeki nikâhların sonraki esas formu da gösterilmiştir: Gelinle damat velilerinin izniyle düzenlenmiş düğün veya geleneksel ve resmi kız isteme; b) gelini "kaşırması" veya onun "kızın kaçması" ile c) Avrupalı etnik grup geleneğine uygun olan genelde şehirlerde karşılaştığımız nikâhtır.

Türkler arasında kararsız evliliklere de dikkat edilmektedir. Boşanma nedenleri, onların etnik grubu, cinsiyeti, yaşı, anne ve babasından biriyle yaşamını devam ettiren ailelerdeki çocuklarla gençlerin problemleri v.b analiz edilmektedir.

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE PROBLEMS OF THE TURKS OF KAZAKHSTAN

Abstract

This report is based on ethnographic, sociological, statistical and other comparative materials, which allowed the author to comprehensively investigate the given problem.

The study of family and marriage institutions is especially important in the context of multi-ethnic Kazakhstan, where local Turks, who have stable ethno-cultural features, live along with a variety of ethnic groups. On the other hand, changes in the course of several decades not only in the republic, but also in the family require close attention to them from professional scientists.

The problem under consideration has been studied taking into account ethnic specifics and in the context of interethnic interactions. The conditions for acquaintance of future spouses, features and significance of the choice of marriage partners are disclosed. Here along with the personal factor, the priority and high importance in this traditional role of close relatives is traced. Places for dating of future spouses, the duration of dating before marriage, the age of marriage are mentioned. The latter is shown taking into account the minimum, prevailing and middle age of the family establishment. If you look at the statistics, about two-thirds of the Turkish men have created a family at the age of 20-24 years and about one-fifth - 25-29 years; about one third of women have married under the age of 20 and half is at the age of 20 and 24. According to our statistical data, from 2.6 to 22.0% of newlyweds marry their peers. At the same time, the vast majority of brides marry men older than themselves. At the same time, the range of marriageable age ranges from one to five years (the main massif) to 6-10 years and above (about 20%). In 2009, 66.2% of Turks were married, including 67.4% of men and 65.0% of marriageable age.

The report identifies the main forms of the conclusion of modern marriages, which are carried out: a) through traditional official matchmaking, providing the wedding feast as by the parents of the bride and groom; b) by “bridling” or “escape” of the bride; c) following the example of European ethnos, a civil marriage, found mainly in the cities.

Attention is paid to unstable marriages among Turks, which often end in divorce. The motives and reasons for the dissolution of marriages, their ethnic, gender and age structure, the problems of children and adolescents in single-parent families, etc. were mentioned.

Ethnic representatives we are studying have their own peculiarities and national traditions related to marriage, wedding and home. It is clear to all of us that marriage of young people is an actual phenomenon of the life of the society, although it seems to be their own work, which is associated with the interests of the whole nation and its future.

According to the ancient tradition, a girl and a man have never seen or talked to each other before the wedding. Their marriage was organized by their parents: they chose the bride and looked at the bridegroom. From time immemorial parents made their children marry in time, hoping to find a loyal wife and a good bride, and tried to settle this issue themselves. The wedding ceremonies made entirely by the agreement of the two parties [Vadalov, 2004: 42].

But at the moment it is totally different, the Turk girls in Kazakhstan get acquainted with the future husband long before their marriage. This temporary relationship may take from a few months to a year or so. According to the answers given by the Turks on this issue were that the time period corresponds to 85.4% which was defined as a result of ethno-sociological studies of authors carried out by Merke district of Zhambyl region in 1990.

In explaining the situation, it is of interest that future spouses get acquainted with each other [see *Table 1*].

Table 1: Dating with the future brides of Turkish population from Merke district of Zhambyl region

Age	Responded	Introduced by, including, %					
		friends	neighbours	friends from work and study	parents	relatives	themselves
18-19	6	-	-	33,3	-	33,3	33,3
20-24	28	10,7	-	-	10,7	39,3	39,3
25-59	35	2,9	2,9	2,9	11,5	60,0	20,0
30-39	71	5,6	1,4	4,2	15,5	38,0	35,3
40-49	28	3,6	7,1	3,5	14,3	28,6	42,9
50-59	28	3,6	7,1	-	21,5	21,4	46,4
60 and	24	-	4,2	-	16,7	41,6	37,5
Total	220	4,5	3,2	3,2	14,5	38,6	36,0

According to the responds of Turks to this question provided in the table, it is clear to see their parents' role and they like decision-making in choosing their future spouse. This can prove once again that they have a direct impact on the traditional initiative.

That's why it is no coincidence that 53.1% of the respondents indicated the interference of their parents and relatives. Relatively speaking, in the latter about 20.0% is Kazakh respondents and 8.9% is Russians.

If we look at the places where the future spouses get acquainted, we can do so by the following answers of Turkish respondents: at the party or at the wedding (21.4%), at work or study (20.9%), the neighborhood (17.0%) and others. Such answers are characterized by few or more of these or other questions which were given by the Kazakhs and Russians.

However, in order to marry the girl he likes, it is necessary to get the consent of parents and relatives of the family. The son primarily tells only his mother about the thoughts on this matter, and he can not talk to his father about the matter. Because, according to the national tradition of the Ahiskan Turks, conveying thoughts of any child directly to his father and speaking freely to him, are considered as shameful and immoral or disrespectful of parents [Author's, 2014-2015].

We can verify the question of this level by the information in Table 2. For most Turks, it is clear that the consent of their parents to marry is obligatory for them to establish a marital union. Relatively speaking, the similar opinions

of Kazakh and Russian respondents make up 85.8-69.4%. Among the Russian ethnoses, their young people often take decisions about their own destiny, the answers given above are unique and besides in other regions of Kazakhstan these figures are much lower [Kalysh, 2013: 253].

Table 2: The attitude of Turkish parents towards the marriage of young people from Merke district of Zhambyl region

Age	Responded	Including %		
		mandatory	not mandatory	difficult to respond
18-19	10	100,0	-	-
20-24	39	94,8	2,6	2,6
25-29	39	97,4	2,6	-
30-39	73	93,2	4,1	2,7
40-49	28	89,3	7,1	3,6
50-59	27	100,0	-	-
60 and above	25	100,0	-	-
Total	241	95,9	2,9	1,2

Of course, the solution of the problem of creating a new family is agreed upon by all parents of the bridegroom. For example, 93.2% of the respondents chose to agree with their relatives, including 98.8% of the men and 89.9% of the girls in response to the question "How are your close relatives interested in your marriage?"

For comparison, similar answers of Kazakhs among respondents made 88.6-92.2-85.7%, and among Russians – 72.2-77.6-70.4%.

The ideal time for marriage begins at the age of 18 for Kazakhstani Turks, both for the bridegroom and the bride. When a man becomes full of intelligence and begins to know the sweetness of life, he marries. At the same time, getting educated in special secondary and higher education, serving in the army of Kazakhstan or employment in different industries raises the marriage age. For example, in 1999 according to the national population census, 31.0% of the married people aged 20-24 years old were men and 66.7% were girls of the Turkish nationality, while the figures for the age group of 25-29 constitute 69.6-79.3%. This approach is characterized by the Meskhetian Turks, whom we are studying. If we compare urban and rural Turks, traditionally the last figure is higher. For example, Turks aged 20-24 were 32.8-67.9%, compared to 72.1-80.5% in the 25-29 age group [National composition, 2000: 96].

According to our abovementioned statistics, the marriage of Turks in these age features is much higher than that of other ethnic groups of the country. Relatively speaking, in 1999, , according to the age of 20-24 in Kazakhstan, the marriage percentage of Azerbaijani young men and girls was 26.5-60.0% and 22.1-46.2% was for the Kazakh nationality, and among those between the ages of 25-29, 61.9-75.9% was among Azerbaijanians and 62.7- 70.2% among Kazakhs [National composition, 2000: 30].

The 1999 census of the population of Kazakhstan shows that the majority of the ethnic group over 15 years old were married (*see Table 3*). There are no special differences between urban and rural Turks, as traditionally the values of family and marriage for them are quite high. Nevertheless, the rates of unmarried men are higher than those of unmarried women. On the other hand, the latter have a higher proportion of widows and divorced.

Table 3: The marriage of Turkish according to the population census 1999 of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Population 2000: 86-89]

Nationality	Total	Men				Total	Women			
		Of Them					Of Them			
		Single	Married	Widow	Divorced		Single	Married	Widower	Divorced
Total										
Turkish	24585	28,7	67,4	2,4	1,5	24520	20,0	65,0	10,4	4,3
Meskhethian T	889	29,9	66,8	2,5	0,8	907	22,2	64,8	9,1	3,9
Around Town										
Turkish	6096	31,6	63,6	2,3	2,5	5484	21,8	62,5	10,4	5,6
Meskhethian T	97	27,8	68,0	2,1	2,1	88	14,7	73,9	5,7	5,7
Around Village										
Turkish	18489	27,8	68,6	2,4	1,4	19036	19,4	65,7	10,4	4,0
Meskhethian T	795	30,2	66,7	2,5	0,6	819	22,9	63,9	9,5	3,7

For example, in 1999 the population census in Almaty region [*see Table 4*] shows that 65.1% of Turkish-married couples (men 66.5% and women 63.8%), as well as Meskhethian Turks - 61.5% (men 65, 5% and women 57.9%).

Table 4: The marriage of Turkish according to the population census 1999 of Almaty region [Results of the 1999 census of the Almaty region, 2001: 254-256]

Nationality	Total	Men				Total	Women			
		of them					of them			
		single	married	widow	divorced		single	married	widow	divorced
Enbekshikazakh district										
Turkish	3135	27,8	68,5	2,4	1,3	3294	20,6	64,4	10,8	4,3
Meskhetian Turks	55	10,7	65,6	2,5	1,4	392	27,6	58,2	10,9	3,3
Zhambyl district										
Turkish	609	31,3	65,8	1,6	1,7	681	18,7	65,6	10,7	4,9
Karasai district										
Turkish	3139	28,5	66,1	3,2	2,2	3268	20,9	63,9	10,8	4,3
Talgar district										
Turkish	1441	31,1	65,7	1,6	1,7	1453	22,5	60,8	11,4	5,3
Meskhetian Turks	26	38,5	57,7	3,8	-	35	17,2	54,3	20,0	8,6
Ili district										
Turkish	670	28,7	68,2	1,8	1,4	716	17,9	65,7	10,8	5,7
Almaty region										
Turkish	9204	29,3	66,5	2,4	1,7	9473	20,7	63,8	10,9	4,6
Meskhetian Turks	406	30,3	65,5	3,0	1,2	451	26,2	57,9	11,5	4,4

If we analyze this question by villages of the region, then the highest rate of this type of marriages in the Turks is determined by men among Enbekshikazakh and Ili districts (68.2-68.5%), and among the Turkish women in Zhambyl and Ili districts (65.7-65.6%). Similar information about Meskhetian Turkic census records was recorded only in Talgar and Enbekshikazakh districts.

As pointed out earlier, the indicators for the creation of a married couple are much higher in the rural areas of Zhambyl oblast [see Table 5].

Table 5: The marriage of Turkish according to the population census 1999 of Zhambyl region [Results of the 1999 census of the Almaty Zhambul region, 2001: 186-188]

Nationality	Total	Men				Total	Women			
		of them					of them			
		single	married	widow	divorced		single	married	widow	divorced
Taraz city										
Turkish	1106	27,9	64,9	3,4	3,8	1072	20,5	61,2	11,9	6,5
Meskhethian Turks	64	26,6	70,3	1,6	1,6	66	15,2	74,3	4,6	6,1
Baizak district										
Turkish	1971	26,6	69,4	2,9	1,2	1971	19,2	66,9	9,9	4,1
Zhambyl region										
Turkish	909	31,1	65,8	1,9	1,2	920	20,8	65,9	10,1	3,3
Kordai district										
Turkish	220	29,0	68,6	1,4	0,9	226	22,2	63,7	9,7	4,4
Merke district										
Turkish	2285	24,5	72,7	1,9	0,9	2394	16,3	68,2	11,9	3,5
Shu district										
Turkish	1200	24,0	71,6	3,3	1,0	1245	19,1	68,2	8,6	4,0
Meskhethian Turks	56	25,0	73,2	1,8	-	51	15,7	76,5	3,9	3,9
Zhambyl region										
Turkish	7730	26,4	69,5	2,6	1,5	7929	18,8	66,4	10,6	4,1
Meskhethian Turks	154	24,7	71,4	3,2	0,6	147	16,3	74,8	4,1	4,8

The total number of marriages between the Turks in this region is 68.0%, and Meskhethian Turks - 73.1%. The same can be seen from the number of rural residents in comparison with the city. For example, they make up 68.8% of the rural Turks and 73.2% of Meskhethian Turks.

Here in Turks marriages between men aged 15 to 70 years and higher, in Zhambyl region - 65.8%, in Merke - up to 72.7%. The predominance among women was reported in two districts - Merke and Shu, accordingly 68.2%. The higher level of these data is also found among

MeskhetianTurks, that is, the figure for men by nationality in Shu district is 72.7%, for women 76.5%

The data on the South-Kazakhstan Region are characterized by a marked decline [see Table 6].

If we look at the marriages in the region in full, it is 66.6% in Turks and 67.9% in Meskhetian Turks, and the level of separation of men and women is uneven. For example, if the size of the rural Turk men is low, in Makhtaral district its value will reach 66.2%, and Tolebi - 79.7%, which is the highest figure not only in South Kazakhstan, but also in all of Kazakhstan. Similarly, the information on Meskhetian Turk men are much more complex.

Table 6: The marriage of Turkish according to the population census 1999 of South Kazakhstan region [Results of the 1999 population census in the South Kazakhstan region, 2001: 203-205]

Nationality	Total	Men of them				Total	Women of them			
		single	married	widow	divorced		single	married	widow	
Shymkent city										
Turkish	474	35,5	60,5	2,5	1,5	436	22,8	61,9	9,2	6,1
Turkistan city										
Turkish	336	36,3	61,3	1,8	0,6	300	24,1	66,3	7,3	2,3
Maktaral district										
Turkish	344	25,9	69,8	2,6	1,7	369	21,1	63,4	11,7	3,8
Sairam district										
Turkish	2336	26,8	69,9	2,6	0,7	2369	17,4	67,5	12,0	3,2
Saryagash district										
Turkish	804	26,5	70,0	2,2	1,2	832	20,3	65,3	11,8	2,6
Tolebi district										
Turkish	1010	28,1	79,7	1,5	0,6	1018	20,5	66,6	9,9	2,9
Tulkibas district										
Turkish	510	33,7	74,3	2,8	0,9	545	25,7	57,9	10,7	5,7
Meskhetian Turks	71	42,2	57,8	-	-	55	23,6	69,0	7,4	-
South Kazakhstan region										
Turkish	5898	29,1	67,7	2,3	0,9	5926	20,0	65,4	11,0	3,5
Turkish	99	36,4	63,6	-	-	88	19,3	72,7	8,0	-

It is characterized by the women of that ethnos. The information provided in the table above gives us some inaccurate data on men and women. First of all, the higher number of widows, and figures of men are five times the number of Turks and seven times the Meskhetian Turks. Secondly, the number of divorced women is higher than that of men. For example, in the South Kazakhstan region in 1999 census the number of divorced men is 56, while in women this figure is 208.

The materials of the National Population Census of 2009 are of particular interest for the problem we are studying (*see Table 7*). Here, in comparison with 1999, a number of distinctive tendencies are characteristic of other ethnic groups of Kazakhstan that are in contact with them. Firstly, there is an increase in the proportion of Turks who has never been married. And they are again higher in men than in women, reaching 40.3% in cities. Secondly, the decrease in the share of those who are married is noticeable. So, if in 1999 this indicator among men reached 63.8-68.4%, in 2009 – 56,3-60.5%. Similar indicators of women decreased from 62.9-65.6% to 60,5-62.4%, respectively.

Table 7: The marriage of Turkish according to the population census 2009 of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Marriage and family, 2010: 61-77]

Nationality	Total	Men				Total	Women			
		of them					of them			
		single	married	widow	divorced		single	married	widow	
Total										
Turkish	36483	36,1	60,5	2,0	1,3	33177	25,3	61,9	8,8	4,0
Around city										
Turkish	11516	40,3	56,3	11,4	2,0	8002	26,9	60,5	8,5	4,1
Around village										
Turkish	24967	34,7	62,4	22,3	1,0	25175	24,8	62,4	8,9	4,0

The decrease in the proportion of widows, widowers and divorcees is positive. The latter circumstance testifies not only to the improvement

of the standard of living and well-being of the Turkish population, but also to the stability of traditional family-marriage relations. If every third ethnic family in contact with them in Kazakhstan has European ethnic groups and Kazakhs [Kalysh, 2017: 10], the analogous figure among the male Turks varies between 1.0-2.0%, and among the Turkish women - from 4.0 to 4.1%.

In the ethnic structure of divorces in the Merke district of Zhambyl region for 2009-2014 broken marriages out of 45 with the participation of the Turks, 53.3% fell on the single nationality and 46.7% fell on the nationally mixed, including 26.7% with the Azerbaijanis, 13.3% - with the Russians, 4.4% - with the Uzbeks and 2,2% - with Kazakhs [Archive, 2009-2014]. For comparison, we note that out of 54 unsuccessful marriages of Turks of the same region in 1960-1989, the above figures were respectively 55.6-26.0-7.4-3.0-0.0% [Archive, 1960-1989].

If we analyze the divorce among Turks according to the duration of the life as a couple in the indicated area, then we see the following picture:

- 40.0% of them divorced in the interval of 1-5 years of life as a couple, including 41.7% in single nationality and 38.1% in nationally mixed marriages;
- 28.9% suffered a collapse of family life after 6-10 years (29.2% - single nationality and 28.6% - nationally mixed);
- 13.3% experienced divorce after 16 years and further married life together (8.3% - single nationality and 19.0% - nationally mixed);
- 11.1% - after 11-15 years of joint marriage (12.5% - single nationality and 9.5% - nationally mixed);
- 6.7% - up to one year of marriage (8.3% - single nationality and 4.8% - nationally mixed).

When specifying in the ethnic aspect, the figures considered by us are not unambiguous. For example, in Turkish-Azerbaijani divorces, 50.0% of unsuccessful marriages occur for 6-10 years, and 16.7% for 1-5 years and 16 years or more. In Turkish-Russian families, 83.3% of families disintegrated in the interval of 1-5 years, with the participation of Uzbeks - evenly for 1-5 and 11-15 years, and in Turkish-Kazakh marriages - after 16 years of marriage.

We also have statistical data on the age of those who get divorced. In the same Merke district, people at the age of 25-29 take the first place in divorce (29.0%), in the second place - 20-24 years old (15.9%), in the third place - 40-44 aged people (14, 5%), then - 35-39 aged people (13.0%). The figures discussed above are characteristic for the most part of single national families, rather than nationally mixed ones. Thus, among the latter at the age of 30-34, they reach 42.9% for men and women, then for 25-29 year-olds (28.6%).

The age differences in marriages of prospective spouses are of great interest. Here is our evidence based on the results of ethno-sociological inquiry. As a rule, the future husband of a new family will prove to be older than 2-4 years. With regard to the legal capacity, Turkish women in the Merke district responded by 68.8% and Turkish men 82.7%. Similar figures are 37.2% - 34.0% among Kazakh respondents.

Of course, such a trend is characterized as a traditionally recognized objective reality in many Oriental and Turkic peoples. This can be explained as follows: firstly, a man should have a lifelong experience as the adoptive father of a future family. Secondly, he should provide a normal and full-fledged financial support for the family.

At the same time, the emergence of new aspects is seen in the issue under study. First of all, it is influenced by the Kazakhs and other nations primarily living with them. Secondly, the Turks of Kazakhstan, as well as other peoples of the republic, have seen the difficulties in the trade-economic relations, the impact of the reorganization and so on. They did their best. Thirdly, not all families prove to be stable and prosperous on a long and consensual matrimonial life, feeling on themselves all the problems of our far from simple society, experiencing certain difficulties in connection with the transition to a market economy.

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