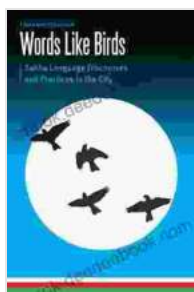


Sakha Language Discourses and Practices in the City Borderlands

The Sakha language is a Uralic language spoken by the Sakha people of the Sakha Republic in northeastern Russia. With over 400,000 speakers, it is the most widely spoken Uralic language. However, the Sakha language is facing challenges in the city borderlands, where it is increasingly coming into contact with other languages, such as Russian and English.



Words Like Birds: Sakha Language Discourses and Practices in the City (Borderlands and Transcultural Studies) by Stephen King

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2343 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Print length : 332 pages
Lending : Enabled



This article explores the discourses and practices surrounding the Sakha language in the city borderlands. We examine how these discourses and practices shape the language's vitality and the experiences of its speakers. We also discuss the implications of our findings for language policy and planning.

Discourses on the Sakha Language

There are a number of competing discourses on the Sakha language in the city borderlands. Some discourses view the Sakha language as a valuable cultural heritage that should be preserved and promoted. Other discourses view the Sakha language as a barrier to integration and economic success.

The discourse of language preservation is often promoted by Sakha cultural activists and organizations. These activists argue that the Sakha language is an essential part of Sakha culture and identity. They believe that the language should be taught in schools and used in government and media.

The discourse of language as a barrier is often promoted by Russian nationalists and some government officials. These individuals argue that the Sakha language hinders the integration of Sakha people into Russian society. They believe that the Sakha language should be replaced by Russian in schools and government.

The competing discourses on the Sakha language have a significant impact on the language's vitality. The discourse of language preservation has helped to maintain the language's use in some domains, such as education and media. However, the discourse of language as a barrier has led to the decline of the Sakha language in other domains, such as government and public life.

Practices Surrounding the Sakha Language

The practices surrounding the Sakha language in the city borderlands are also shaped by the competing discourses on the language. The practice of language maintenance is often promoted by Sakha cultural activists and

organizations. These activists organize language classes, cultural events, and other activities to promote the use of the Sakha language.

The practice of language shift is often promoted by Russian nationalists and some government officials. These individuals encourage Sakha people to abandon their native language in favor of Russian. They argue that this will help Sakha people to integrate into Russian society and achieve economic success.

The practices of language maintenance and language shift have a significant impact on the language's vitality. The practice of language maintenance has helped to maintain the language's use in some domains, such as education and media. However, the practice of language shift has led to the decline of the Sakha language in other domains, such as government and public life.

Implications for Language Policy and Planning

The findings of this study have implications for language policy and planning in the Sakha Republic. The government needs to develop policies that support the vitality of the Sakha language. These policies should include measures to promote language maintenance and to mitigate the effects of language shift.

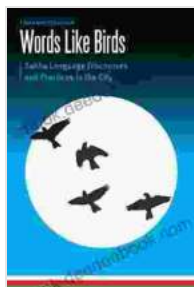
The government should also work to create a more positive linguistic landscape for the Sakha language. This can be done by increasing the visibility of the Sakha language in public spaces and by supporting the development of Sakha-language media.

By taking these steps, the government can help to ensure the vitality of the Sakha language in the city borderlands and beyond.

The Sakha language is facing challenges in the city borderlands, where it is increasingly coming into contact with other languages, such as Russian and English. The competing discourses and practices surrounding the Sakha language shape the language's vitality and the experiences of its speakers.

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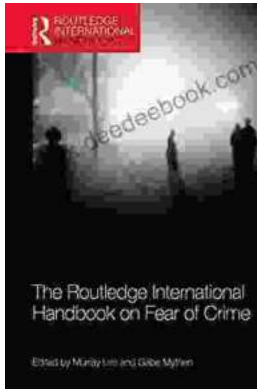
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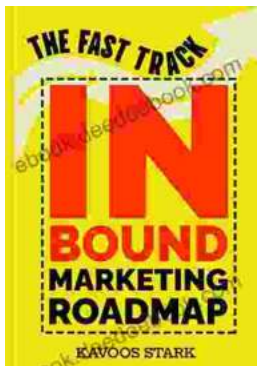
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