

KARAKALPAK AND KOREAN CULTURE'S SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

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Abstract: This article provides some information about cultural heritage of Karakalpak and Korean countries emphasizing some indistinguishable features along with unlikenesses. So here are some examples given in the sphere of lexicology, behavior, beauty standards and national clothes.

Key words: Karakalpak, Korean, «Kok koylek», hanbok, beauty standards, blind-dating.

What does the word «culture» mean? Is it about the arts, manifestations, customs and behavior of a particular group of people? Exactly, it is considered as all the ways of life including beliefs and even the way of greetings. So, it is crucial to mention that both countries' lifestyle has been westernized in recent years, however, their habitats tend to do everything possible to save their rich cultural heritage by wearing traditional clothes in special occasions or practicing some traditional ceremonies. Yet, the fact that youngsters of society fail to comprehend the worth of these long-standing traditions, should be accepted. After all, let us start presenting the likenesses of both cultures.

First of all, both cultures have their own national clothes for women and men. Furthermore, Karakalpak dress for women and girls is called «Kok koylek» which means «blue dress». And it has been worn by Karakalpak ladies for more than 100 years. This dress' main motifs of the patterns were sea waves, wind, wheat and fish. Everything that was enriched by Mother Nature. While Korean traditional cloth is called as «hanbok» which is translated as «Korean cloth». Thus, women's hanbok in light colors also like a light cloud and thereafter, it appears to reflect the happiness and joy. It turns out that both countries' women dresses were inspired by Nature. What is more, the length of dresses were so long that both types of national clothes reach the toes of a wearing girl. Moreover, Karakalpak and South Korean girls wear them in their wedding ceremonies to show their patriotism and how they value their countries' traditions. Another similarity can possibly be in family relationships. Either in Korea or in Karakalpak people highly appreciate their family remaining with parents even after becoming adults while in Western culture it is not expected. In Europe individuals who are over 18 can abandon their parents' house to seek independence and freedom whereas Karakalpaks and Koreans do not hurry to live separately since they feel the duty before the ones who raised them. The last but not least is about the blind-dating process. Honestly, it is not accepted by everybody in two places, yet there are found the ones who prefer dating with the opposite sex who are completely unknown to them. Karakalpak parents are sometimes extremely desire their children to get married that they start finding the beloved ones themselves to their sons and daughters. Although, in South Korea it works a bit differently. After all, in some cases they go to blind-dating with intention of finding their soul mates, too. If it comes to lexicology, borrowed words in Korean language from English are about 10% of whole language vocabulary. Karakalpak language also took these words from English. They are the names of foods, technological devices or pieces of clothes such as, 컴퓨터 (pronounced as komputo)- computer (in English), kompyuter (in Karakalpak),

노트북 (notibuk- Korean) – noutbuk (in Karakalpkak) , 텔레비전 (tellebijon in Korean)- televizor (in Karakalpkak)- television (in English) , 인터넷 (intonet in Korean) – internet (in both Karakalpkak and English Languages) , 와이파이 (waipai in Korean) , wifi (in English) , waifai (in Karakalpkak) and other number of words that can be real examples of borrowed words from English.

Despite above mentioned similarities , there are not less differences between two countries. First of all , beauty standards of Korean ladies and gentlemen are of higher level than that of Karakalpaks . There is an obsession with appearance that leans into toxic side. Wishing to be pale, skinny and cute are strong beauty standards of Korea in modern time. Also, plastic surgery consisting of botox and other procedures are welcomed there by almost everyone. Whereas in Karakalpakstan so called true beauty is highly-appreciated. The fact that they are Muslims means they do not underestimate the beauty and everything that was given by Almighty. So , it is important to remember to stay gentle with yourself and give some extra self-confidence and self-love . Another surprising fact about Karakalpakstan is attitude towards Older people . They show they respect by speaking in formal language when Korean people's respect is noticed even in passing something. They pass even a pen with two hands because of the difference in age. Besides, Koreans tend to eat food with chopsticks in their hands but Karakalpaks enjoy their meal by consuming with the help of right hand, as they consider that they can feel more delicious taste with hands. Then, Taking into consideration the role of music in two territories, it is necessary to add that Korea is the heart of pop and rap music for the sake of such iconic music bands like BTS, Stray Kids , Blackpink, Aespa and so on . It is the main reason why this place is becoming must come place for youngsters . Karakalpakstan is also famous for its pop genre songs like «Hayrana» , «Aydinlar», «Qaraqalpaq qizlari» etcetera , but is not globalized enough in a worldwide scale . If Korea is the dream country for people because of its vibrancy and songs or K-dramas small but modest country Karakalpakstan also welcomes everybody to show its not less important places where in history occurred global civilization and other events.

Taking everything into account it is obvious that each country's culture which was mentioned above describes the value of customs and traditions whether they are alike or not. The best way is to stay and feel respect to both of them knowing that every single culture has background history and its importance.

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