

The Specific Features of Ethnonymy and on the Correct Use of Ethnonyms

Summary

The main specific feature of ethnonyms is the existence of two groups: 1) the ethnonyms used by an ethnos for self-denoting; 2) the ethnonyms used for denoting other ethnoses or ethnic groups (cf. kartveli — грузин — Georgian...).

Ethnonymy belongs to historical categories. An ethnonym can denote various objects in various periods. On the other hand, an object can be denoted by various ethnonyms.

The incorrect use of some ethnonyms (e.g. "apkhaz", "apswa", etc.) should be considered to be a result of neglecting of such factors.