

# **Indigenous Peoples, States and Development (1): Tourism Development and Social Change of Ethnic Minorities**

Multi-Ethnic Society (11)

(Jun.26, 2014)

# Email Assignment

- Effective ways to utilize multiple languages: not to justify monolingual dominance
- Linguistic rights = from the viewpoint of users (speakers): respect to minorities' languages
- Similar as multiculturalism, majority's understanding is crucial (notice of linguistic imperialism, etc.)

# Arguments in (Ethnic) Tourism

- Tourist gaze (Urry 1990): What becomes tourism resource, how, why?
  - Nostalgia of the majority (p.571)
- Human relations in tourism: hosts – middlemen – guests
  - \* Cases without intervention of middlemen (just hosts-guests relations)

- **Authenticity of cultures**
  - Authenticity/un-authenticity from the perspective of majority and tourists
  - Authenticity/un-authenticity from the perspective of minority (guests)
- **Commoditization (Commercialization) of cultures**
  - Something fictional impression ('Pastiche' p.576)
  - Gendered (feminized) representation
- **Agency of minorities (active or passive)**

# Conditions Surrounding “Ethnic Minorities”

- Around 8% of the total population, 55 officially recognized groups
- Development in remote areas emphasized in recent decades
- School education: some groups develop its own letters/orthography, but not all of them, high ratio of dropout
- Status change of ethnic culture in historical-cultural system (Takayama 2007: 43)

# YEFV and other Places as Tourism Resources

- YEFV: state-owned, established in 1992 as the boom of theme parks, primarily targeted domestic market, peaked in 1999, faced challenges
- Other ethnic tourism spots in Yunnan (outside of the author's framework)

[http://www.china.org.cn/top10/2011-08/19/content\\_23241410\\_10.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/top10/2011-08/19/content_23241410_10.htm)

# Different Views and Expectations Among Different Stakeholders

- Managers: do they really believe in what they offer or think just a part of their job?
- Park employees: why do they work here and why do they leave the job after a few years?
- Tourists: why are they satisfied?
  - If there were more foreign tourists, what would be different?
- What is the government wish?

# Comparison With Other Countries

- 'Hill tribes' in Thailand

<http://www.hilltribe.org/>

- Ainu in Hokkaido

<http://www.ainu-museum.or.jp/en/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kank  
%C5%8D Ainu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kank%C5%8D_Ainu)

# Discussion

- What are 'tensions' and how do they appear?
- Author's contradictory statements: 'Minority employees are not passive receivers' (p.580), 'they have little say in presenting and interpreting their culture' (p.581)
- What is educational function of YEFV and how is it operated?
- What is NOT discussed in this article?

# References

- Smith, Valene S. (ed), 1989, *Hosts and Guests: The Anthropology of Tourism*, University of Pennsylvania Press
- Takayama, Yoko (高山陽子), 2007, 『民族の幻影——中国民族観光の行方』東北大学出版会
- Urry, John, 1990, *Tourist Gaze: Leisure and Travel in Contemporary Societies*, Sage
- Yang, Li, 2013, “Ethnic Tourism and Minority Identity: Lugu Lake, Yunnan, China,” *Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research* 18(7)

- 【Email assignment】

What do you think of the fact that cultures and traditions of some ethnic groups evolve to tourism resources?

- **【Preparation】**

**What kind of relations exist  
between transnational network  
and local development?**