

S.N. Kukenov\* , T.Kh. Gabitov 

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

\*e-mail: nekas.s60@gmail.com

## RESEARCHING THE ISSUES OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN KAZAKHSTAN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY AND EXISTENTIALISM

The study of ethnic minority issues in Kazakhstan through the lens of modern philosophy and existentialism is vital for understanding the social and cultural processes in the country. This research aims to analyze the life strategies and identities of ethnic minorities, exploring their interactions with society and state institutions from the perspectives of existentialism and contemporary social philosophy. The study is of significant academic importance as it contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural and social dynamics in Kazakhstan's multicultural environment. The practical significance of the work lies in developing suggestions for improving policies in integration and cultural adaptation. The research methodology includes qualitative methods such as interviews and analysis of social media content. These methods allow for an in-depth examination of the personal experiences of ethnic minorities and their interactions with societal structures. Key findings demonstrate that philosophical and existential aspects play a significant role in preserving identity and aiding social adaptation of ethnic minorities. The research underscores the need for deeper interaction between state structures and minorities to create an effective model of multicultural interaction. This study makes an important contribution to social sciences by expanding the understanding of mechanisms of social integration and cultural dynamics in Kazakhstan. The practical value of this work lies in the potential to use the results to adjust cultural and educational programs aimed at supporting multiculturalism and social harmony.

**Key words:** ethnic minorities, existentialism, multiculturalism, social integration, Kazakhstan.

С.Н. Кукенов, Т.Х. Ғабитов

Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, Алматы қ., Қазақстан

\*e-mail: nekas.s60@gmail.com

### Қазақстандағы этникалық азшылықтардың мәселелерін заманауи философия және экзистенциализм тұрғысынан зерттеу

Қазақстандағы этникалық азшылықтардың проблемаларын заманауи философия мен экзистенциализм тұрғысынан зерттеу елдегі әлеуметтік және мәдени процестерді түсіну үшін өте маңызды. Бұл зерттеудің негізгі мақсаты этникалық азшылықтардың өмірлік стратегиялары мен өзіндік ерекшеліктерін талдау, олардың қоғаммен және мемлекеттік институттармен қарым-қатынасын экзистенциализм және қазіргі әлеуметтік философия тұрғысынан зерттеу. Зерттеудің ғылыми маңызына келетін болсақ, ол көпмәдениетті Қазақстандағы мәдени және әлеуметтік динамиканы терең түсінуге ықпал етеді. Жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы интеграция мен мәдени бейімделу саласындағы саясатты жақсарту бойынша ұсыныстар әзірлеу болып табылады. Зерттеу әдістемесінде сұхбат және әлеуметтік медиа мазмұнын талдау сияқты сапалы әдістер қамтылған. Бұл әдістер этникалық азшылықтардың жеке тәжірибесін және олардың қоғамдық құрылымдармен қарым-қатынасын егжей-тегжейлі зерттеуге мүмкіндік береді. Жұмыстың негізгі нәтижелері философиялық және экзистенциалды аспектілер этникалық азшылықтардың ерекшеліктерін сақтап қалуда және әлеуметтік бейімделуде маңызды рөл атқаратынын көрсетеді. Зерттеу көпмәдениетті қарым-қатынастың тиімді моделін құру үшін мемлекеттік құрылымдар мен азшылықтар арасындағы қарым-қатынасты нығайтудың қажеттілігін көрсетеді. Қазақстандағы әлеуметтік интеграция және мәдени динамиканың механизмдерін көрсете отырып, әлеуметтік ғылымдарға маңызды үлес қосады. Жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы – көпмәдениеттілік пен әлеуметтік үйлесімділікті қолдауға бағытталған мәдени және білім беру бағдарламаларын түзету үшін нәтижелерді пайдалану мүмкіндігі.

**Түйін сөздер:** этникалық азшылықтар, экзистенциализм, көпмәдениеттілік, әлеуметтік интеграция, Қазақстан.

С.Н. Кукуенов\*, Т.Х. Габитов

Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, г. Алматы, Казахстан

\*e-mail: nekas.s60@gmail.com

### **Исследование проблем этнических меньшинств в Казахстане с точки зрения современной философии и экзистенциализма**

Исследование проблем этнических меньшинств в Казахстане через призму современной философии и экзистенциализма является актуальным для понимания социальных и культурных процессов в стране. Цель данного исследования заключается в анализе жизненных стратегий и идентичностей этнических меньшинств, исследовании их взаимодействия с обществом и государственными институтами с позиций экзистенциализма и современной социальной философии. Исследование обладает значительной научной значимостью, так как способствует глубокому пониманию культурных и социальных динамик в мультикультурной среде Казахстана. Практическая значимость работы заключается в разработке предложений по улучшению политик в области интеграции и культурной адаптации. Методология исследования включает качественные методы, такие как интервью и анализ содержания социальных медиа. Эти методы позволяют подробно изучить персональный опыт представителей этнических меньшинств и их взаимодействие с общественными структурами. Основные результаты работы демонстрируют, что философские и экзистенциальные аспекты играют значительную роль в сохранении идентичности и социальной адаптации этнических меньшинств. Исследование подчеркивает необходимость более глубокого взаимодействия между государственными структурами и меньшинствами для создания эффективной модели мультикультурного взаимодействия. Исследование вносит важный вклад в социальные науки, расширяя понимание механизмов социальной интеграции и культурной динамики в Казахстане. Практическое значение работы заключается в возможности использования результатов для корректировки культурных и образовательных программ, направленных на поддержку мультикультурализма и социальной гармонии.

**Ключевые слова:** этнические меньшинства, экзистенциализм, мультикультурализм, социальная интеграция, Казахстан.

#### **Introduction**

Problems related to ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan occupy a prominent place in the national and international agenda because the country has a multi-ethnic structure, and different ethnoses live within one state. Modern philosophy and existentialism allow for new methodology for considering and resolving social problems, but the development of their use in analyzing the state of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan has not yet gone far beyond the scope of individual scholars' work. Therefore, further research and theoretical development are necessary. The ethnic minorities of Kazakhstan are the object of the study. The subject of the study is the interaction of the problems of identity, culture, and social living conditions of representatives of ethnic minorities with philosophical and existential provisions.

The research methods used, including in-depth interviews and analysis of social media content, allow for a thorough exploration and interpretation of the participants' life experiences and views. This study contributes significantly to the development of social sciences, expanding the understanding of the connections between philosophical ideas and social practices of ethnic minorities. The results

can be used to form effective strategies for multicultural interaction and social policy in Kazakhstan, promoting deeper integration of minorities into the country's social life. The practical significance of this research is undoubtedly great. The results can be used to adjust national policies in the fields of human rights, integration, and cultural diversity, which is particularly relevant for institutions dealing with cultural heritage, education, and social adaptation issues. Using Scott Paeth's analysis of existentialism, one can explore the impact of choice and responsibility on the status of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. These concepts help understand the relationship between personal self-determination and social barriers, which is especially important for improving the living conditions of minorities (Scott Paeth, 2015:138). The study offers specific recommendations for improving mutual understanding and cooperation between ethnic groups, which can help reduce social tension and strengthen civil peace in the country. Analysis based on modern philosophy and existentialism enriches traditional approaches to ethnic issues, offering new perspectives on problems of adaptation and self-identity. These approaches can be particularly valuable in educational programs aimed at forming a respectful and conscious attitude towards differences. The research

contributes to a deeper theoretical understanding of interethnic relations in Kazakhstan, expanding the scope of philosophical analysis of minority issues to include existential aspects of their existence. This approach allows not only to analyze the current situation but also to predict potential social changes, proposing strategies for their optimization. Thus, this study not only fills substantive gaps in the social sciences but also offers practical tools for improving the lives of ethnic minorities and society as a whole. The results may interest both the academic community and a wide range of professionals working in the field of social policy and cultural management.

In response to global challenges, Kazakhstan, along with other countries, is revising its national development strategies, uniting different ethnic groups through common civic values. This makes state ethnic policy and debates about multiculturalism central to identifying existential aspects in a multicultural context (Kurmanova, Apanasevich, 2017: 150). The problems of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan attract attention at both the national and international levels, linked to the country's unique multi-ethnic structure. This coexistence of diverse groups within a single state highlights the need for further research into interethnic relations. This is particularly the case for the interaction of philosophical and existential issues with ethnic identity, aspects of which remain under-explored. In her work 'Multiculturalism in Cultural Policy', Gasanova N.K. (2014, p 12) emphasizes that multiculturalism should not be seen as a new phenomenon, but as a result of the era of global resettlement, requiring a comprehensive approach to cultural policy in modern globalization to effectively solve social problems.

Modern research shows that the old perception of this term is outdated and now its new aspects and opportunities are being revealed. According to Nysanbaev, the key feature of the Kazakhstan method lies in the focus on developing «intercultural communication and integration» (Nysanbaev, 2013:9).

### **Materials and methods**

To what extent can the ideas and concepts developed by modern philosophical and existential theories help to analyze and understand the social and identity problems of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan? Modern philosophical and existential theories about the individual's freedom and personal identity, existentialism, and authenticity of the individual, can be used in order to deeply analyze the integration problems and ways of social adaptation

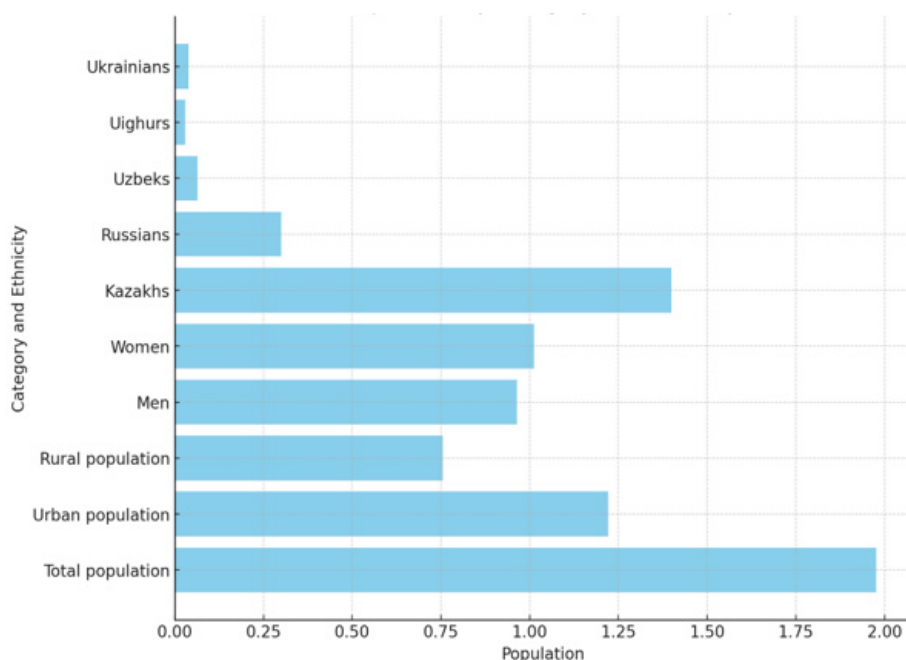
of ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. The subject of this research can be the idea of freedom and personal identity in existentialism and modern philosophy and how these notions lead to internal and external conflicts that ethnic groups face. Thus, modern philosophy and existentialism concepts will be used to know and understand these integration problems and social adaptation ways of ethnic groups.

The monograph by M.M. Suzhikov and G.S. Sapargaliyev, titled «Some Philosophical and Legal Problems in Improving the Culture of Interethnic Relations» (1989, p. 80), is particularly noteworthy. It delves into the cultural and legal dimensions of interethnic relations, shedding light on the complexities of cultural interactions and conflicts in a diverse society such as Kazakhstan. This research serves as a valuable groundwork for comprehending the context of interethnic dynamics and contributes to refining our approaches and insights on how philosophical and legal studies can facilitate the integration and social inclusion of ethnic minority groups. Our research methodology involves qualitative analysis, including in-depth interviews with ethnic minorities and examination of social media content. These approaches help us collect information on both individual and group identities, as well as the interactions within various ethnic communities. By interpreting this data using modern philosophy and existentialism, we aim to pinpoint significant challenges and propose solutions to enhance social unity and minimize discord. Within the realm of existentialist thought, drawing from Jean-Paul Sartre's notion that existence comes before essence, we take into account the lived experiences of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. For instance, individuals from Russia and Uzbekistan, who form a considerable portion of the population, interact with their communities in an effort to express their distinct identities in society. While navigating societal norms and expectations, these groups share a common yearning for autonomy, which plays a crucial role in their cultural expression, educational pursuits, and political engagement. Members of ethnic minority communities encounter obstacles in society that can support or impede their quest for autonomy. Striking a balance between staying true to themselves and adapting to their surroundings is a difficult task for these communities as they strive to preserve their cultural identity in a multicultural environment. A.S. Kalinin (2020, p. 433) delves into the significance of ethical connections in the philosophy of E. Levinas in «The Concept of the Other and Ethics.» Therefore, examining the ways in which ethnic minorities view and engage with society is essential for promoting social

cohesion and fostering cultural empathy. Studying how existentialism conflicts are dealt with can give insight into how different groups modify their traditions to fit into a globalized world, aiming for genuine harmony in a world that is constantly evolving. The study included members from the five major ethnic groups in Kazakhstan to ensure a diverse representation. The sample was carefully put together to reflect the demographic diversity in terms of gender and location, as shown in the diagram provided. Collaborating with local groups and cultural centers allowed us to reach out to a wide range of potential participants from different social backgrounds and regions. Within every ethnic group, we conducted six interviews to gather a diverse range of perspectives. The data we gathered includes audio record-

ings of the interviews, which were transcribed for analysis. By using NVivo software, we were able to organize and explore the data, identifying key themes and thought patterns among the participants in the study.

At this stage, we used a diagram to show how the population was distributed and to check if our sample matched the demographic characteristics. We also used the diagram to evaluate how representative the collected data was. When analyzing the data, we took into account the differences in living conditions between participants living in urban and rural areas, which was also highlighted in the diagram. This helped us consider how perceptions and issues of ethnic minorities could vary across different socio-economic contexts.



Title of the figure: Population by Category and Ethnicity

Source: Compiled by the author

Figure 1

The population distribution diagram, categorized by gender and type of locality, proved especially useful during the sampling phase and when interpreting the results, allowing us to match the collected data with general demographic trends in Kazakhstan. It was also used in discussing the socio-demographic factors that might influence the life experiences and perspectives of the participants, in the results discussion section of the study.

### Research Phases

Developing a set of questions based on the theoretical principles of existentialism and modern philosophy, aimed at exploring the perception of issues faced by ethnic minorities and their self-identification. For example, a question might be: «Which aspects of your ethnic identity do you consider most significant in terms of your own existence and identity?»

*Creation of the Question Set:*

Kazakhs: «How do you perceive the influence of Kazakh culture on your own self-concept and your view of the world?»

Russians: «Which aspects of Russian identity are most crucial in the context of your existence?»

Uzbeks: «What challenges and advantages do you experience as a member of the Uzbek ethnic group in modern Kazakhstan?»

Ukrainians: «What role do Ukrainian cultural traditions play in shaping your personal identity and related life goals?»

Uighurs: «How does your ethnic background affect your understanding of the meaning of life and your personal philosophy?»

*Sample Answers:*

Ukrainian: «For me, Ukrainian culture is not only a source of pride but also a defining factor in my self-identification. I have seen how our traditions and customs have shaped my understanding of myself and the world.»

Uzbek: «My Uzbek heritage brings a unique diversity to my personality. Although I sometimes face adaptation challenges, I also see unique opportunities provided by my cultural legacy.»

Russian: «Russian culture and language play an essential role in forming my self-identity. I feel connected to the rich cultural heritage that has been passed down from my ancestors.»

Participant selection through ethnic and cultural organizations was successfully completed, and the results obtained allowed us to highlight the main trends and issues faced by different ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. The selection of participants through ethnic and cultural organizations was successfully completed, and the insights gained highlighted the primary trends and challenges faced by various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. The research into the perception of issues faced by ethnic minorities using philosophical concepts revealed that many interviewees struggle with self-identity and adaptation to changing social contexts. Russians and Ukrainians, for example, express concerns about preserving their cultural heritage in the face of globalization and the spread of Western values. Uzbeks and Uighurs emphasize the importance of maintaining their ethnic and cultural identities in the context of national policy and public integration. As an existentialist, Richard Kearney could explore issues of freedom, choice, and responsibility in this context. This study underscores how existentialist approaches can aid in understanding and articulating the subjective experiences of ethnic minorities (P. Gratton and J. Panteleimon, 2007: 17). These findings help

to better understand and assess the complex issues of interethnic relations and cultural adaptation in modern Kazakhstan from a philosophical and existential perspective.

*Problems of Assimilation and Self-Determination:*

Ukrainians and Uzbeks highlighted difficulties in preserving their ethnic and cultural identities amid the dominance of the Kazakh majority and the influence of Russian culture. Some interview participants expressed concerns about losing their traditions and language.

*The Need for Protection and Promotion of Rights:*

Kazakhs and Ukrainians emphasized the need to enhance the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities and to promote their interests in society and politics. This includes ensuring access to education in their native languages, preserving cultural centers, and implementing anti-discrimination policies.

*Searching for Identity in the Modern World:*

Many interviewees, regardless of their ethnic background, expressed a desire to find a balance between preserving their traditions and adapting to modern culture. This is tied to their search for life's meaning and self-identity amid diversity and globalization. These examples reflect the diverse challenges and needs faced by ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan and highlight the importance of considering their voices and interests when forming state policy and public practice.

*Cultural Expressions and Identity:*

Uighurs and Uzbeks expressed interest in preserving and promoting their cultural heritage through language, music, and traditional ceremonies. They see this as a way to maintain their unique identity in the context of globalization.

*Emotional Well-being and Self-awareness:*

Russians and Ukrainians expressed concerns about losing their cultural heritage and the related emotional aspects. Many highlighted the importance of maintaining a connection with their history and traditions to support their self-awareness. The significance of historical context in shaping current social and cultural practices is emphasized in the work of Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley, (2012, p. 12) who discusses the process of 'mining the past' to understand and shape the present and future. This idea is particularly relevant in the context of analyzing ethnic minorities, as their historical heritage and past experiences significantly influence their contemporary struggles and aspirations. Studying and respecting the cultural heritage of ethnic groups can facilitate more effective integration and mutual understanding in multicultural societies.

*Education and Opportunities:*

Kazakhs and Russians stressed the importance of access to education and professional opportunities for ethnic minorities. They noted that this could be key to integration and successful adaptation in modern society.

*Dialogue and Mutual Understanding:*

All ethnic groups expressed a desire to establish dialogue and mutual understanding among themselves and with the Kazakh majority. They see this as a crucial step toward strengthening social solidarity and harmonious coexistence in multi-ethnic Kazakhstan. These examples demonstrate how various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan perceive their cultural identity and what strategies they propose to address their issues and strengthen their place in society.

After conducting interviews with representatives of various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan and collecting data, the conversations were recorded and transcribed for further analysis. Here are examples of responses from representatives of each ethnic group:

Kazakhs:

Question: «How do you see the role of Kazakh culture in your life from the perspective of contemporary philosophy?»

Answer: «For me, Kazakh culture is the foundation of my self-identification. Our philosophy shows respect for traditions and cultural heritage, which helps me better understand my place in the world and society.»

Russians:

Question: «How do you evaluate the influence of Russian culture on your existence from the perspective of existentialism?»

Answer: «Russian culture is not only a source of pride for me but also the basis of my being. I feel connected to the global culture through Russian literature, art, and philosophy.»

Uzbeks:

Question: «How do you experience your Uzbek identity in contemporary Kazakhstan?»

Answer: «For me, Uzbek identity is a source of strength and pride. Although I sometimes face adaptation challenges, I feel confident knowing my roots and cultural heritage.»

Uighurs:

Question: «How does your Uighur origin affect your view of the meaning of life?»

Answer: «Uighur culture inspires me to seek the meaning of life through embracing the moment and the importance of personal choice. I feel a deep connection to the history and culture of my people.»

Ukrainians:

Question: «How do you see the interaction of Ukrainian identity with contemporary philosophical concepts?»

Answer: «Ukrainian identity for me is an integral part of my existence, interacting with contemporary philosophical trends. I strive for harmony between traditions and modernity for personal and spiritual development.»

These responses reflect the diverse perspectives of representatives of different ethnic groups on their cultural identity and world perception using philosophical concepts. Molefe emphasizes the importance of communal ties for achieving a meaningful life. These ideas can be applied to analyze the problems of ethnic minorities, highlighting the role of cultural heritage and intercultural interaction in shaping identity (Molefe, 2020:18). After conducting interviews with representatives of various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan and gathering data, the conversations were recorded and subsequently transcribed. Below are examples of responses from representatives of each ethnic group:

Kazakhs:

Question: «How do you assess the role of Kazakh culture in modern Kazakhstan from the perspective of contemporary philosophy?»

Answer: «For me, as a Kazakh, culture plays a key role in defining my place in society. Contemporary philosophy helps me understand the importance of preserving traditions and adapting to a changing world.»

Russians:

Question: «How do you view the role of Russian culture within the context of contemporary philosophical principles?»

Answer: «Russian culture is an integral part of my existence. Contemporary philosophy helps me recognize my identity in a multinational society and appreciate the contribution of Russian culture to the global cultural heritage.»

Uzbeks:

Question: «How do you perceive your ethnic identity from the perspective of contemporary philosophy and existentialism?»

Answer: «For me, Uzbek identity signifies uniqueness and a connection to a common cultural heritage. Contemporary philosophy helps me understand my own values and address issues of self-determination in today's society.»

Uighurs:

Question: «How do you evaluate the influence of Uighur culture on your own existence from the perspective of contemporary philosophical trends?»

Answer: «Uighur culture is key to understanding my origins and place in the world. Contemporary philosophy allows me to see my cultural identity as part of the broader human experience.»

Ukrainians:

Question: «How do you perceive the role of Ukrainian culture in the context of contemporary philosophical concepts?»

Answer: «Ukrainian culture is not only a source of pride but also a crucial element of my self-identification. Contemporary philosophy helps me realize the value and uniqueness of my cultural heritage in a global context.» These responses represent the diverse viewpoints of various ethnic groups on the role of culture and philosophy in their own existence and identity. After the interviews with representatives of various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan and the collection of data, an analysis was conducted to identify recurring themes and concepts. The following key aspects were highlighted:

*Identity and Self-determination:*

Many respondents, regardless of ethnic background, emphasized the importance of preserving historical and cultural traditions to form their own identity. This includes language, customs, historical narratives, and religious practices.

*Adaptation and Preservation of Cultural Heritage:*

Many expressed concerns about maintaining their cultural identity in a multinational society. They discussed the challenges of adapting to modern conditions while striving to preserve their traditions and values.

*Social Integration Issues:*

Participants expressed concerns about ethnic bias in society. Such attitudes could hinder full participation in social processes and limit access to resources and opportunities for all groups.

*Searching for Meaning and Identity in the Modern World:*

Many respondents expressed a desire to find a balance between preserving their cultural identity and adapting to modern conditions. They sought meaning in life and their place in society through an awareness of their cultural roots and individual opportunities.

*The Need for Dialogue and Mutual Understanding:*

Many expressed a desire to foster dialogue and understanding between different ethnic groups and the Kazakh majority. They see this as a crucial step towards strengthening social solidarity and peaceful coexistence in a multinational Kazakhstan.

Analyzing these themes and concepts helps us better understand the complex issues of interethnic relations and cultural integration in modern Kazakhstan from the perspectives of contemporary philosophy and existentialism. After analyzing the data from the study on the problems of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan, taking into account contemporary philosophy and existentialism, the following conclusions can be formulated:

*The Need for Respect and Preservation of Cultural Heritage:*

Respondents from all ethnic groups expressed the need for respect and preservation of their cultural traditions and customs. For example, Kazakhs talked about the importance of preserving the Kazakh language and the traditions of the nomadic lifestyle.

*The Importance of Increasing Dialogue and Mutual Understanding:*

A significant finding of the study is the need to increase dialogue and mutual understanding between different ethnic groups. For example, Uighurs highlighted the importance of exchanging cultural experiences and mutual understanding to strengthen social solidarity.

*Support for Self-determination and Integration:*

The study emphasized the importance of supporting the self-determination and integration of ethnic minorities into society. For instance, Uzbeks mentioned the need for programs to support the preservation of their cultural identity while adapting to new environments.

*Strengthening Social Solidarity and Peaceful Coexistence:*

A conclusion of the study is the necessity to strengthen social solidarity and peaceful coexistence among all ethnic groups in Kazakhstan. For example, Ukrainians expressed hope for the development of mutual understanding and respect among various ethnic groups to ensure harmonious coexistence. These conclusions highlight the importance of considering the needs and opinions of different ethnic groups when developing state policies on interethnic relations and cultural integration in Kazakhstan.

## Literature review

The exploration of the problems facing ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan through the lens of contemporary philosophy and existentialism involves analyzing the contributions of numerous theorists and researchers. Each brings a unique perspective to understanding this topic. Jean-Paul Sartre in his seminal work «Being and Nothingness» explores

concepts of freedom and existence that can be applied to issues of identity and self-determination among ethnic minorities. Martin Heidegger in «Being and Time» also addresses the essence of being, offering a philosophical approach to understanding time and history, crucial for analyzing the historical context of ethnic groups. S. I. Kuznetsova highlights the importance of interactions between different ethnic groups and their impact on social stability and development in her studies on «Interethnic Relations in Kazakhstan». Scott Paeth in «Philosophy: A Short, Visual Introduction» and Molefe in «Personhood and a Meaningful Life» provide analytical tools for reflecting on personal and collective identity, highly relevant in the multinational context of Kazakhstan. Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley in her work «Mining the Past, Acting in the Present, and Enriching the Future» and Ricardo Duchesne in the analysis «Charles Taylor's Philosophy of Minority Ethnic Identity and the Suppression of EuroCanadian Identity» develop the discourse on the significance of cultural memory and identity in modern multicultural societies. Thomas J. Scheff with his concept of social integration emphasizes the importance of social bonds and mutual understanding for achieving social harmony, which is crucial for minority policies. Research by Haj-Bolouri and colleagues demonstrates how Habermas's philosophy can inspire the design of information systems that facilitate social integration through dialogue and mutual understanding, relevant for discussing interethnic relations. Emmanuel Levinas and Amangeldi Aitaly

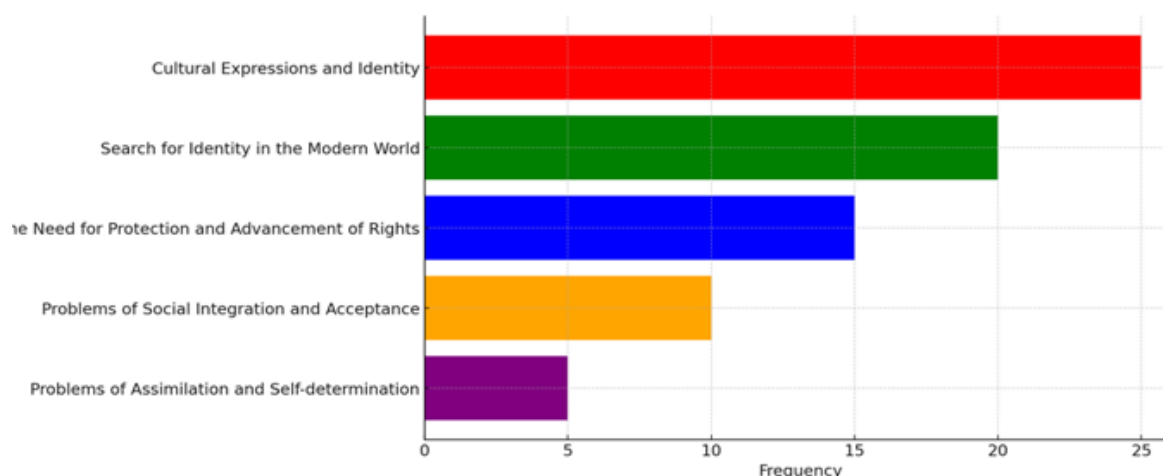
also stress the importance of an ethical approach to the Other and mutual respect in multicultural societies, helping to deepen understanding of ethnic dynamics in Kazakhstan.

Extensive research in philosophy and existentialism provides robust theoretical frameworks for analyzing and understanding issues related to ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. The works of these authors offer diverse approaches to addressing problems of integration, discrimination, and intercultural dialogue, essential for creating a fair and inclusive society.

## Results and discussions

The study conducted a thorough examination of the demographic and socio-cultural aspects of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. The analysis revealed that these groups significantly influence the country's social and cultural dynamics. Issues related to language barriers, cultural adaptation, and economic conditions remain pressing and require increased attention from governmental and non-profit organizations.

Utilizing concepts from contemporary philosophy and existentialism helped to highlight the main challenges faced by members of these ethnic minorities. Special attention was given to issues of identity and self-determination. This approach helped to identify key aspects that shape the unique cultural and social profiles of these groups within the context of national integration.



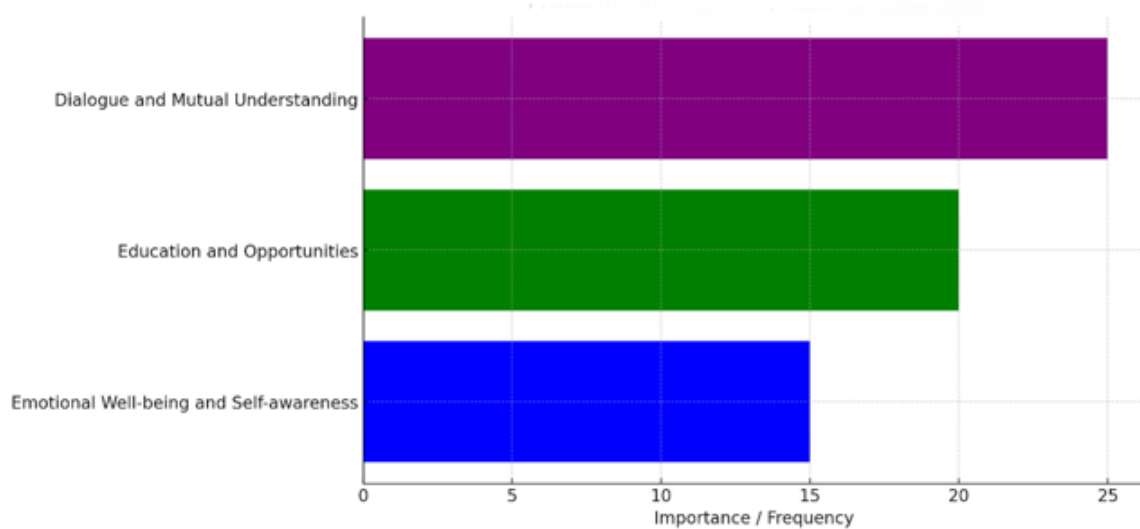
The title of the figure: Problems of Ethnic Minorities in Kazakhstan  
Source: Compiled by the author

Figure 2



The figure 2 reflects the population numbers by ethnic group and social categories. Existential philosophy, which focuses on individual experience and self-determination, suggests that the population size of different ethnic groups does not always

reflect their social status and level of integration in society. It's important to consider not only the numerical presence of these ethnic groups but also the quality of their social interactions and opportunities for self-actualization.



The title of the figure: Problems and Needs of Ethnic Minorities  
Source: Compiled by the author

Figure 3

The study, conducted using philosophical and existential approaches, highlights the importance of interethnic dialogue as a key element in addressing issues related to ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. Based on data reflecting the frequency of problems faced by ethnic minorities, it is evident that identity exploration and social integration are crucial aspects in strengthening social stability and cultural diversity in the country. The search for authenticity, a central theme in existentialism, suggests that maintaining the unique identity of each ethnic group contributes to creating a more complete and harmonious society. In this context, cultural self-expression and the preservation of linguistic traditions enhance social cohesion and understanding between different ethnic groups.

The research findings emphasize the following aspects:

*Enhancing intercultural communication and understanding through educational and cultural events.*

*Expanding access to education and employment for all citizens, regardless of their ethnic background.*

*Creating favorable conditions for the preservation and development of the cultural features of each ethnic group.*

*Recommendations based on the analysis include:*

Developing comprehensive educational programs that incorporate elements of intercultural communication and the fundamentals of existentialist philosophy. Policies aimed at supporting cultural diversity and providing equal social opportunities for all population groups.

*Prospects for applying the research:*

The opportunities arising from this study include using its findings to shape public policy and community initiatives aimed at improving the situation of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. Such actions can contribute to deepening social integration and enhancing national dialogue, which are important factors for the sustainable development of a multinational society.

The study of ethnic minority issues in Kazakhstan, approached through modern philosophy and existentialism, presents a comprehensive analysis that covers both theoretical and practical aspects of

social integration. An in-depth examination of demographic and socio-cultural aspects has revealed significant impacts of ethnic minorities on the country's social and cultural dynamics, as well as key challenges such as language barriers and cultural adaptation. According to Thomas Scheff in his work 'A Concept of Social Integration,' the importance of social connections and understanding for achieving social integration is emphasized, which can be applied to improving interactions among various ethnic groups in Kazakhstan (Scheff, 2007:582). The research by Haj-Bolouri (2016, p. 2) and colleagues illustrates how Habermas's philosophy can inspire the design of information systems to enhance social integration through the development of an open learning platform. This concept highlights the importance of dialogue and mutual understanding in integration processes, aligning with key aspects of contemporary philosophy and existentialism. Thus, the study's findings underscore the following aspects: enhancing intercultural communication and understanding through educational and cultural events; expanding access to education and job opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their ethnic background; creating favorable conditions for the preservation and development of cultural features of each ethnic group. In conclusion, the discussion reveals how various philosophical and theological approaches can be integrated for a deeper understanding and resolution of ethnic minority issues in Kazakhstan, offering new perspectives on the challenges of adaptation and self-determination in the context of globalization and multiculturalism.

## Conclusions

The study aims to analyze the demographic, socio-cultural, and philosophical aspects of the lives of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. Qualita-

tive methods were employed, including the analysis of primary and secondary data, interviews with minority representatives, and theoretical analysis using concepts from contemporary philosophy and existentialism. It was found that interethnic dialogue significantly impacts the resolution of problems faced by ethnic minorities. The need to improve access to education and employment to reduce socio-economic inequalities was confirmed. The importance of preserving cultural diversity as an element of harmonious societal development was noted. The research confirmed that a comprehensive approach incorporating social, economic, cultural, and philosophical aspects is necessary for successfully addressing the problems of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan. Interethnic dialogue and inclusive policies can contribute to creating a fairer and more integrated society.

The findings can be used to develop new state and public programs aimed at supporting ethnic minorities. Specifically, policies focused on educational integration, employment, and cultural self-expression of minorities could be developed. It is also crucial to continuously monitor the situation to adapt strategies in response to changing conditions and needs of the minorities.

These conclusions underscore the importance of joint efforts by all levels of government and public organizations to improve the living conditions of ethnic minorities, which in turn can contribute to more sustainable and peaceful development of the entire multinational society of Kazakhstan.

## References

- Scott Paeth: Philosophy existentialism // Visual Introduction, Fortress Press. 2015 pp. 138
- Курманова М. и Апанасевич А.А «Политика межэтнической интеграции в Казахстане и принципы мультикультурализма» - Journal of history. No 2 (85). 2017 pp. 150
- Гасанова Н. К. «Мультикультурализм в культурной политике» - Москва: 2014. – с. 12
- Нысанбаев А. «Мультикультурализм в постсоветском Казахстане: итоги, проблемы, перспективы» // Адам әлемі. (2013). – №2 (56). – С. 9.
- Сужигов, М.М. Сапарғалиев Г. С. «Некоторые философско-правовые проблемы совершенствования культуры межнациональных отношений» монография / 1989. - с.80
- Калинина А. С. «Понятие Другого и этика в философии Э. Левинаса» // Вестник ЧелГУ. 2020. №5 (439)  
<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/ponyatie-drugogo-i-etika-v-filosofii-e-levinasa>
- Molefe, M. «Personhood and a meaningful life in African philosophy.» South African Journal of Philosophy, 2020. – pp. 18.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02580136.2020.1774980>
- Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley «Mining the Past, Acting in the Present, and Enriching the Future» 2012 – pp.12

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/pluralist.7.3.0007>

Сартр, Жан Поль. «Бытие и ничто» / Жан Поль Сартр ; [перевод с французского В. И. Колядко]. – Москва : Издательство АСТ, 2020. – с. 1072

Кузнецова С. И. «Межэтнические отношения в Казахстане // Центральная Азия: десять лет независимости. 2001. №2001. <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/mezhetnicheskie-otnosheniya-v-kazahstane> (дата обращения: 17.04.2024).

R Duchesne [Charles Taylor's philosophy of minority ethnic identity and the suppression of eurocanadian identity ricardo duchesne] // The Occidental Quarterly, 2016 - researchgate.net pp. 17

**Thomas J. Scheff** [A Concept of Social Integration] Published online: 13 Sep 2007 - pp. 582

Haj-Bolouri, Amir; Kruse Chandra, Leona; Iivari, Juhani; and Flensburg, Per, «How Habermas' philosophy can inspire the design of information systems: the case of designing an open learning platform for social integration» // Selected Papers of the IRIS, Issue Nr 7 (2016). pp. 2.

## References

Scott Paeth: (2015). Philosophy existentialism // Visual Introduction, Fortress Press pp. 138

Kurmanova M., Apanasevich A.A (2017) [Politika mezhetnicheskoy integracii v kazahstane i principy mul'tikul'turalizma] - Journal of history. No 2 (85). rr. 150 (in Russian)

Gasanova N. K. (2014). [Mul'tikul'turalizm v kul'turnoj politike] - Moskva: – pp. 12 (in Russian)

Nysanbaev A. «Mul'tikul'turalizm v postsovetском Kazahstane: itogi, problemy, perspektivy» // Adam ølemi. (2013). – №2 (56). – S. 9. (in Kazakh)

Suzhikov, M.M. Sapargaliev G. S. «Nekotorye filosofsko-pravovye problemy sovershenstvovaniya kul'tury mezhnacional'nyh otnoshenij» monografiya / 1989. - s.80

Kalinina A. S. (2020). «The concept of the Other and ethics in the philosophy of E. Levinas» // Bulletin of ChelSU. No. 5 (439). <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/ponyatie-drugogo-i-etika-v-filosofii-e-levinasa>

Molefe, M. (2020). «Personhood and a meaningful life in African philosophy.» [South

African Journal of Philosophy], pp.18 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02580136.2020.1774980>

Jacquelyn Ann K. Kegley (2012) Mining the Past, Acting in the Present, and Enriching the Future [University of Illinois Press] Vol. 7, No. 3 (Fall 2012), pp. 12

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/pluralist.7.3.0007>

Sartre, Zhan Pol'. (2001). «Bytie i nichto» / Zhan Pol' Sartre ; [perевod s francuzskogo V. I. Kolyadko]. – Moskva : Izdatel'stvo AST, pp. 1072 (in Russian)

Kuznecova S. I. (2001). [Mezhetnicheskie otnosheniya v Kazahstane] // Central'naya Aziya: desyat' let nezavisimosti. №2001. (in Russian)

<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/mezhetnicheskie-otnosheniya-v-kazahstane>

R Duchesne (2016). [Charles Taylor's philosophy of minority ethnic identity and the suppression of eurocanadian identity ricardo duchesne] // The Occidental Quarterly, researchgate.net pp. 17 (in Russian)

**Thomas J. Scheff** (2007). «A Concept of Social Integration» [Published online: 13 Sep] pp. 582

Haj-Bolouri, Amir; Kruse Chandra, Leona; Iivari, Juhani; and Flensburg, Per, (2016) «How Habermas' philosophy can inspire the design of information systems: the case of designing an open learning platform for social integration» // Selected Papers of the IRIS, Issue Nr 7 pp. 2.

### Information about authors:

*Saken Kukenov Nurbakekovich (corresponding author) – 2nd-year doctoral student at the Department of Philosophy of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Almaty, Kazakhstan; e-mail: [nekas.s60@gmail.com](mailto:nekas.s60@gmail.com); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6731-5468>);*

*Gabitov Tursun Khafizovich – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of Cultural Studies, Department of Philosophy of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (Almaty, Kazakhstan; e-mail: [tursungabitov@mail.ru](mailto:tursungabitov@mail.ru); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1330-1799>).*

### Авторлар туралы мәлімет:

*Сакен Кукенов Нұрбакекұлы (жауапты автор) – әл-Фараби атындағы ҚазҰУ философия кафедрасының 2-курс докторанты (Алматы, Қазақстан; e-mail: [nekas.s60@gmail.com](mailto:nekas.s60@gmail.com); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6731-5468>);*

*Габитов Тұрсын Хафизұлы – философия ғылымдарының докторы, әл-Фараби атындағы ҚазҰУ философия кафедрасының мәдениеттану профессоры (Алматы, Қазақстан; e-mail: [tursungabitov@mail.ru](mailto:tursungabitov@mail.ru); ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1330-1799>).*

Поступила 30 мая 2024

Принята 20 июня 2024

*This research has been funded by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Grant AP19677146. Cross-cultural and axiological analysis of ethnic identification processes of ethnic minorities in the southern region of Kazakhstan.*