

Temporality and Scale of Movement of Northern Baikal Evenkis

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Soviet administrators and territorial formation officers often interpreted the space of the village as if the village were a completed portrait. However, such a narrow view does not take into consideration villagers' movements and their temporality. In this sense, the stay in the taiga and the stay in the village should not be approached as the contrasting lifestyles; rather they are the complementary life phases which together constitute the strong sense of locality and the way of life of local people who adapted to the combination of different types of movements in their routine practices. The way of life of the northern Baikal hunters, fishers and reindeer herders includes movements of two different scales. Thus, small-scale movements are those which do not cover large distances and usually imply a return to the same point within a short period of time. They involve the use of one main base where a movement starts and finishes. Large-scale movements usually do not mean a quick return to the same place and cover larger distances; yet, they are built upon a set of small-scale movements with a return to certain points of a route, such as winter log house (*zimov'e*) or hunting base (*baza*). That means they are built upon the use of several bases. The temporality of movements depends not only on the practical activity, but also from the season, weather, time of day or night, from the seasonal movements of animals in the taiga and fish in the river, as well as on economic factors. At the same time, both in the case of large-scale movements of reindeer herders and hunters, as well as small-scale movements of fishers the village functions as a point of constant return.