

Title: Sociolinguistic Consequences of Migration: A Comparative Study of Migrant, Minority and Foreigner Integration

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The aim of this study on migration and language is to better understand the situation of migrants in today's Czech Republic, in contrast with the situation of migrants in South Korea. It deals in particular with the problems of integration of the Czech Roma minority (mostly post World War II migrants). The goal of this presentation is to apply the lessons learned from the study of migration to the U.S. (nation building, assimilation, minority and foreigner integration, and specifically the interaction of Czech and German immigrants with the majority society in Texas) to predicting sociolinguistic outcomes of the above-mentioned conflict situations in the Czech Republic and South Korea. The languages and cultures of migrants, foreigners and minorities always affect the sociolinguistic makeup of the majority society, and interactions at the cultural boundary lead to sociolinguistic contacts that may cause powerful social transformation.

I show in particular that case studies of American nation building in the 1780s, solidifying American English as a national language, resistance to integrating foreigners (Germans in Pennsylvania in the 1780s and Czechs in Texas around the turn of the 20th century) and building immigrant enclaves within the American nation (such as that of Czechs in Texas in the 19th century) are relevant to the ongoing sociolinguistic processes of foreigner and minority integration in the Czech and South Korean contexts. The ideology of language as a national tie (practiced in the early U.S., as well as among Texas Czechs and others) and of a "pure-blooded nation" speaking a language representative of a single cultural community is reflected in South Korean policies, despite the country's belated recognition that thousands of foreigners, migrants and minorities live in it as well. Each of the contact situations includes a population slow to assimilate or given a social status preventing assimilation. I focus on integration options for the Roma who are "nepřizpůsobiví" ('slow to adjust') in the Czech Republic, and compare them with the options of immigrants to South Korea and Czech immigrants to Texas. This research has been inspired primarily by the work of Paul Kerswill, Jef Verschueren and Ingrid Piller on migration, language and intercultural communication.