

On the identity of the Old Believers in Estonia

Irina Külmoja (Tartu University)

Russian Old Believers are one of the national minorities in Estonia. Nowadays they are ethnoconfessional community. Old Believers have preserved their language and their culture, despite the impact of foreign language and cultural environment. Based on the stories of the Old Believers, recorded in dialectological expeditions for ten years, the report looks into the factors influencing identity of the Old Believers. The analysis is illustrated by examples from dialectal texts.