The opponent's review on the diploma thesis of Anas Abuov "Ethnic differentiation of fertility in Kazakhstan"

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The diploma thesis of Anas Abuov "Ethnic differentiation of fertility in Kazakhstan" consists of 77 pages of text and 4 pages of appendices. The text is organized in seven numerated chapters including the introduction and conclusions. This is completed by the lists of figures, tables, references, and the above mentioned appendices.

Submitted diploma thesis is thematically focused on fertility differentiation according to ethnicity in Kazakhstan as a whole during the past decade. The submitted work is divided into two basic parts. The first part could be understood as a technical one, contents problem definition, specification of research objectives and the thesis outline. Data and methods, used literature and theoretical frameworks necessary for successful solution of the diploma research tasks also belong to this part representing almost a half of the thesis.

The second part, the core of diploma thesis, comprises chapters 5 and 6. In the first of them ethno demographic characteristic of the Kazakhstani population is provided. In the second one, fertility by ethnicity is examined. The final part of the thesis (Conclusion) covers the author's major findings.

The aim and objectives of the work and the related research questions are clearly identified by the author in the introductory part. The outline of the work has its firm logical structure and is sufficiently compact. Entire text is written in easily understandable English. Uncomplicated is also content of the work. It, however, does not decrease its value. This value is especially contained in completeness, smoothness and high logical consistence of entire diploma thesis. The text itself can be easily labelled as a sample of the exemplary exercise on fertility analysis and application of demographic indicators. The work does not contain any highly sophisticated methods and applications but on the other hand provides a clear picture of inter-ethnic differentiation in the country in the past, in particular during last eight or ten years.

Since the examined text was produced with a specific care, the author did not leave to reviewers almost any space for their critics. Mentioned could be merely formal defects concerning rather graphical then text objects. Among the biggest misdemeanours belong broken charts (see e.g. Fig. 13) and long tables having mostly size over one page or being wrong localized in the text (see e.g. Tab. 13).

In sum, there are no serious objections on my side to recommend the diploma thesis of Anas Abuov "Ethnic differentiation of fertility in Kazakhstan" for defence in front of the Commission for MA state exams in demography.

Prague, September 20, 2010

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opponent