

ABSTRACT

STRATIGRAPHICAL SITUATION ON THE SETTLEMENT OF MOCHISHE I OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE IN THE SOUTHERN URALS

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Within the frameworks of study of the Late Bronze Age in the Southern Urals a key point is study of cultures of the Andronovo family. We have tried to determine links of different cultures and their correlations. The main method was stratigraphical. Ancient settlements are the best source for such studies.

In this connection, excavations of a well stratified settlement of Mochishe I are very important. The settlement is situated in the Etkul area of the Chelyabinsk region, in the forest-steppe zone. A large part of the settlement (including dwellings and areas among them) was excavated (more than 4000 m²). Fixation of all ceramic sherds was realized that allowed each level of the settlement to be dated.

After investigations of the materials a following stratigraphical situation has been reconstruct:

1. The lowermost level contains sherds of the post-Sintashta, Petrovka and early Alakul ceramics.

2. This level was covered by a level with Alakul and Fyodorovka materials. Ceramics of the Fyodorovka-Cherkaskul type was found in the same level.

3. The uppermost level contains Sargari-Alexeevka ceramics.

Basing on these evidences we may draw a conclusion that there were periods in the area of coexistence of the post-Sintashta, Petrovka and early Alakul populations and then Alakul and Fyodorovka.

We may also mark a coexistence of steppe, forest-steppe and forest cultural traditions. All this testifies to much more complicated ethnic processes in the Late Bronze Age than a situation when one culture changes another.

Key words: Andronovo problem, stratigraphical method, settlements, Fyodorovka culture, Alakul culture, Fyodorovka -Cherkaskul ceramics, early Alakul horizon, Sargari-Alexeevka culture

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