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Autor: Shcheka, Jurij V.

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Kontakt/Contact

[Digizeitschriften e.V.](#)
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

✉ info@digizeitschriften.de

Reports

Present-day Turcology at Moscow University

Jurij V. Shcheka

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This brief report contains information about research activities at the Department of Turcology of the Institute for Asian and African Studies of Moscow University.

The Department of Turcology of the Institute for Asian and African Studies at Moscow University was founded in 1943 by the eminent Turcologist and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR N. K. Dmitriev (1898-1954). He was first in the history of Oriental studies at Moscow University to combine a fundamental university education, general Turcology, with multiple fields of expertise in various Turkic languages, comparative-historical Turcology, Turkish folklore, the history and culture of the Turkish people.

At present, lecturers in the department teach Turkish to all undergraduates specializing in Turkish philology, history and economics as well as Ottoman, Tatar and Uzbek to those specializing in philology and history. The department also provides lectures on the following subjects: Theoretical grammar, history and lexicology of the Turkish language, problems of general Turcology, history of Turcological schools, comparative-historical grammar of Turkic languages, the Orkhon-Yenisei and Old Uyghur language monuments, medieval Turkic language monuments, typology of Russian and Turkish, Turkish dialectology, the theory of spoken language and its applications to spoken Turkish, experimental study of Turkish phonology and speech, Turkish intonation,

problems of historical literary typology, history of Turkish literature, Turkish folklore and literature, folk drama and the characteristics of its genres, the theory and practice of translation.

The graduates of the department working as full-fledged specialists in the areas of philology, history, economics, etc. show a high-level command of the Turkish language. Many decades of experience and the resulting methods of teaching Turkish and other languages are materialized in manuals, textbooks and dictionaries written by the members of the department. The latest and most important of them are: È. A. Grunina (1988), a textbook of the Ottoman Turkish language, J. V. Ščeka (1996), an intensive course in the Turkish language, (1992c), a Russian-Turkish phrasebook, and (1989), a book on spoken Turkish. There is also a forthcoming textbook of the Turkmen language by È. A. Grunina in co-authorship with M. Pendgiev and a Turkish-Russian dictionary by Ščeka comprising approximately 17,000 words and expressions. It should be noted that the important on-going changes in contemporary Turkish set some additional tasks in the designing of textbooks and compiling of dictionaries. Just to give an example, in many existing dictionaries one cannot find such commonly used words as *kaynaklanmak* 'result, spring from', *üstlenmek* 'undertake', *içermek* 'contain'.

Some other works of the lecturers of the department are directly connected with the educational process, e.g. a forthcoming study on the Turkish dialects of Anatolia by È. A. Grunina, a historical grammar of the Turkish language (Grunina 1991), and some publications by I. V. Borolina on Turkish literature (e.g. 1993).

The members of the department altogether represent a very wide range of scientific interests reflected in monographs, articles and reports presented at different conferences.

È. A. Grunina's scientific interests lie in the areas of both diachronic and synchronic linguistics and extend from problems dealing with older Turkic periods to those concerning the most important grammatical categories of the contemporary Turkic languages. In one of her latest articles (1996) she considers the synchronically existing homomorphy between the means of derivation and inflection as indicating their genetic relation. This approach leads to some far-reaching conclusions about the origin of many functional Turkic verb forms. At present, she is working on problems related to the Oghuz-Kipchak language community (the "mixed" character of the language of some monuments, the *olya-bolya* problem) and to the category of Turkic voice, which reveals many im-

portant peculiarities different from the active-passive opposition in Indo-European languages (Grunina 1993).

J. V. Ščeka's work is interdisciplinary (1993) and relates in particular to a radical methodological reinterpretation of the semantic approach which has become the norm in modern linguistics. In his opinion, structural semantics constitutes an unfounded postulation and a fruitless search for some structure at content level. Content has only one structure, i.e. the "form" corresponding to it. In practical terms, structural semantics is a structural formalism which studies correlations between different components of "form" (word, image, notion) of the integral linguistic-cognitive sign. Language does not only express cognitive notions (thoughts), but also acts (with a certain amount of sociopsychic energy) by means of emotions. Thus content is the motion of linguistic and cognitive structures. It can be "described" only quantitatively in terms of amounts of energy passing from the sociopsychic potential energy of certain forms into the corresponding kinetic (actual) energy (motion) of linguistic, psychic and social structures. A concrete development of this approach necessitates a mathematical apparatus to describe linguistic—and through it, also cognitive—forms. Any form being a regular reproduction of a finite—and therefore approximated—number of qualities can be represented by a discrete spectrum, which in principle opens a path to its quantitative description.

The approach outlined above is methodologically closely connected with experimental phonetics and phonology of Turkish, another one of J. V. Ščeka's fields of interest (1992a). Many phenomena of spoken Turkish and Turkish first language acquisition reflect in detail all the major phases of the evolution of language, which has its interdisciplinary analogy in the law of biogenetics. It allows the reconstruction of these phases, indicating their general characteristics and approximate chronology (1992b).

The areas of scientific work of D. M. Nasilov are theoretical grammar of Turkic languages, grammatical categories of the Turkic verb, in particular the problems of Turkic aspectology (1989), the history of Turkic languages, the study of Old Turkic texts, Old Uyghur morphology, the history of Turcology and Altaistics, and the sociolinguistic situation in the regions of the Russian Federation. Recently, Nasilov has also been investigating the problems of the revival and development of the Turkic and Altaic languages of small ethnic groups in Russia. He has written articles on many Turkic languages of Russia in encyclopaedic works. He

has also co-authored a textbook of the Shor language for students and school children (Nasilov & Šencova 1994).

P. I. Kuznecov is the author of many textbooks of the Turkish language which have been used for quite a long time and are still being used in the training of Turcologists. A new version of these textbooks awaits publication. Furthermore, he is the author of a large number of academic works concerning different problems of the theoretical grammar of Turkish as well as the etymology of the markers of many grammatical categories (1993). His articles are often cited by both Russian and foreign scholars. His latest articles deal with the origin of the predicative and possessive affixes in Turkic languages, the origin of some Turkic markers of preterite, and the origin of the Turkic affix *-leyin* and its possible relations with certain other markers containing the element *-l*.

The field of semantic research of I. V. Borolina concentrates on the problems of historical-literary typology and in particular literary contacts. She has studied the historical-typological principles of the contact between literatures, the poem "Khosrou and Shirin" in the Turkic literatures of the 14th and 15th centuries, the typology of genres (1993), the typology of literary subjects, especially migratory subjects in Turkish literature, and the Turkish version of Turandot (A. Necip's play "İdbar ve İkbāl").

M. M. Repenkova's academic activities are connected with the Turkish novel of the 1950's to the 1970's, particularly the peasant prose of that period (1989). Repenkova investigates the Turkish political novel (of the 12th of March) and its transition into the realistic subjective-psychological prose, as well as new trends in the development of the Turkish novel.

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