

Werk

Titel: Editorial note

Ort: Wiesbaden

Jahr: 1998

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?666048797_0002 | LOG_0021

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Editorial note

Turkic Languages, Volume 2, 1998, Number 2

The present issue of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* begins with two contributions dedicated to the memory of Nikolaj Aleksandrovič Baskakov, a scholar of overwhelming importance for the development of linguistic Turcology in the twentieth century. As his colleague Ērvand Sevortjan once characterized him, Baskakov “personifies the living history of Turkic linguistics of the postrevolutionary years”. His active role in official Soviet language politics is far from uncontroversial and has often been severely criticized. On the other hand, the general consensus is that he was a great scholar of immense erudition and productivity. Baskakov, who devoted his entire life to the study of Turkic languages, traced his own family’s lineage back to a thirteenth century Tatar *basqaq* (‘governor, commissioner’) of the Khan of the Golden Horde.

Another vital ingredient in Baskakov’s life was music. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union he composed hymns for the young republics of Karakalpakistan, Altay, and Tuva. One charming product of his hobby is the “PIAC Hymn” (*Гимн ПИАК-а*), which Baskakov presented to the 32nd meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference convened by Bernt Brendemoen and held in Oslo in 1989. The text integrates the “Turks” with other “tribes” into an “Altaic family”, but a subsequent verse playfully adds that the Altaic theory is not generally accepted. It acknowledges the existence of “orthodox”, “skeptics” and “Nostraticists”:

Не все согласны алтаисты
с алтайскою теорией
Есть ортодоксы, скептицисты,
ностратики с фантазией .

In the first article of the present issue, Christiane Bulut deals with relativization strategies in Middle Ottoman texts. Michael Dobrovolsky, an expert in the field of Chuvash phonology, describes the stressing of Russian loanwords as represented in Nikolaj Ivanovič Ašmarin’s Chuvash materials from the end of the nineteenth century. Robert J. Ermers,

who has spent years conducting linguistic and literary studies in the newly independent Republic of Kazakhstan, scrutinizes certain opinions expressed in publications of the Soviet period concerning the history of Kazakh as a literary language. A non-Turcological problem of indisputable interest for general Turcologists is dealt with in Stéphane Grivelet's article on the attempt to change the official script of Mongolia. The well-known historian and philologist Sergej Kljaštornyj deals with Al-Birūnī's version of an old Turkic genealogical legend. The situation of one of the endangered Turkic languages of South Siberia is described in Irina Nevskaja's account of the revival of literary Shor. The author is a representative of the Novosibirsk school of linguistics and a leading scholar in the ongoing attempts to describe Shor and related languages. Finally, Klaus Röhrborn's analysis of the restructuring of lexemes continues the author's long-standing morphological studies of neologisms created in the course of the Turkish language reform.

Helga Anetshofer reports on a remarkable Turkish lexical project initiated and carried out by Andreas Tietze. The review section contains contributions by Geoffrey Haig, Michael Hess, and Mark Kirchner.

Lars Johanson