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Digizeitschriften e.V.
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

info@digizeitschriften.de

Kontakt/Contact

Digizeitschriften e.V.
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

✉ info@digizeitschriften.de

Editorial note

Turkic Languages, Volume 5, 2001, Number 1

The fifth volume of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* is introduced by contributions covering large parts of the Turkic-speaking world.

Two of them are dedicated to the easternmost parts of that world. The Japanese scholar Masahiro Shōgaito and his Uyghur colleague Abdurishid Yakup present an edition of four fragments of Uyghur translations of the famous Chinese poem *Qian-zi-wen*, dedicated to the Emperor of the Liang dynasty. Brigitte Pakendorf reports on her ongoing work on genetic and linguistic perspectives on the prehistory of the Yakuts in their largely unknown relations with the neighbouring Tungusic-speaking Evenks.

Ingeborg Hauenschield addresses a topic of general Turcological relevance, studying euphemisms of various origins in Turkic designations for poisonous plants.

A number of articles deal with modern Turkish or its predecessor Ottoman Turkish. Gerd Jendraschek investigates phonological, semantic, structural and pragmatic properties of the numerous Turkish ideophones, generally sound-symbolic forms. Hans-Jürgen Kornrumpf contributes a number of valuable remarks on grammatical aspects of lexicological work. Matthias Kappler presents a Greek translation of one of the early European grammars of Ottoman, Du Ryer's "Rudimenta Grammatices Linguae Turcicae", a version that provides valuable additional information on the phonetics of 17th century Ottoman.

Dealing with a "sister language" of Turkish, Vügar Sultanzade, investigates semantic, syntactic and morphological features of passive, reflexive, reciprocal, causative and decausative categories of modern Azerbaijanian in comparison with data from the oldest texts. Éva Á. Csató investigates, on the basis of her own fieldwork and other unpublished and published materials, various present tense forms found in the varieties of Kashkay (Kashghay, Qaşqā'ī), an Oghuz linguistic conglomerate spoken in Southern Iran. Sabira Ståhlberg summarizes the developments among the Turkic-speaking groups of Bulgaria during the 1990s, in particular with respect to minority rights.

In the review section, Roy Andrew Miller deals with Harry Halén's recent book on the scholarly career of Gustaf John Ramstedt, the famous founder of the Altaic theory.

For the editors of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* it is a sad duty to announce that Professor Emeritus Johannes Benzing, a leading specialist in Turkic, Mongolic and Tungusic studies, passed away on March 16, 2001, at the age of 88. Benzing was active at the University of Mainz from 1963 to 1981 as a full professor at the Institute for Oriental Studies, the “home institute” of this journal. The editors will come back to the life and work of this unique scholar.

Lars Johanson