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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 7, 2003, Number 2

This issue of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* begins with R. M. W. Dixon's manifesto "A program for linguistics", in which the author explains what he thinks linguists, including scholars of Turkic languages, should devote their energy to. He then relates this idealized program to the current situation. Dixon, Director of the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, is an internationally leading linguist, whose recent thought-provoking book *The rise and fall of languages* (1997) has attracted exceptional attention around the globe. There, like in the present article, the author suggests that every linguist should assume a responsibility for documenting some of the endangered languages of the world before they disappear.

An immediate answer to this desideratum is given in the article submitted by K. David Harrison and Gregory D. S. Anderson. Both authors are experienced field researchers who have carried out remarkable work on the South Siberian languages Khakas, Tuvan and Tofan. Anderson's first contribution to *TURKIC LANGUAGES* was an article on historical aspects of Yakut phonology (volume 2, number 1, 1998). The article published today presents the results of recent fieldwork on Middle Chulym, one of the most critically endangered and least documented native Siberian languages. It is spoken along the upper reaches of the Chulym river, an area it once shared with Yeniseyic varieties. The Middle Chulym population partly goes back to former speakers of Yeniseyic, Ob-Ugric and Samoyedic. Its Turkic component is heterogeneous as well, reflecting one more Khakas-like element and another more Tatar-like element.

Vladimir P. Nedjalkov, Institute of Linguistic Research, St. Petersburg, has already published two articles in *TURKIC LANGUAGES* on reciprocals in Karachay-Balkar (volume 6, number 1) and Yakut (volume 7, number 1). In the present issue, the author turns to the means of expressing reciprocity in Kirghiz, a language where the reciprocal suffix also marks the 3rd person plural on verbs.

Javanshir Shibliyev and Necdet Osam, Eastern Mediterranean University, analyze the language situation in Azerbaijan, where three sociopolitical changes within less than two centuries—the "colonial", the "imperial" and the "global" change—are mirrored in the development of the national language.

Fuyuki Ebata, Tokyo University, discusses the morphological, semantic and syntactic characteristics of so-called paired words in Yakut, specifying how they differ from compounds.

Nurettin Demir, Başkent University, Ankara, deals with the interesting use of the indirective evidential particle *imiş* in Cypriot Turkish.

A review article deals with Bernt Brendemoen's description of the Turkish dialects spoken in the province of Trabzon, their phonology and historical development.

As reported in the last issues of *TURKIC LANGUAGES*, Turkic studies has recently lost a number of valuable representatives who dominated the field in the second part of the twentieth century, Nikolaj A. Baskakov, Johannes Benzing, Gunnar Jarring, Karl Heinrich Menges, and others. Today we are sad to announce the bitter loss of three more great scholars.

On May 29, 2003, James Russell Hamilton died in Paris after an accident in his home. He was born on March 14, 1921, in Topeka, Kansas, but had since 1947 lived in France, where he acquired French citizenship in 1974. Hamilton, who was active in the field of East Old Turkic philology, published a number of valuable editions and monographs. His thesis about the history of the Uyghurs according to Chinese sources (“*Les ouighours à l’époque des Cinq Dynasties*”) was published in 1955. He edited several texts in a highly competent way, first a long manuscript about the two princes Kalyāṇamkara and Pāpamkara, and later further texts from Dunhuang. Hamilton wrote most of his works in French, and he applied a transcription system of his own.

On December 23, 2003, the Austrian scholar Andreas Tietze died in Vienna; see the obituary “*Andreas Tietze (26.04.1914 – 23.12.2003)*”.

Only four days later, on December 27, 2003, the German scholar Gerhard Doerfer, born on March 8, 1920, in Königsberg, passed away in Göttingen. We shall return to his life and work.

Lars Johanson