Werk

Titel: Obituaries

Ort: Wiesbaden

Jahr: 2005

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?666048797_0009|LOG_0029

In memory of Ėdham Rahimovič Tenišev (1921-2004)

Dmitrij M. Nasilov, Klara N. Bičeldey

This obituary is dedicated to the memory of Ėdham Rahimovič Tenišev (1921-2004).

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Ėdham Rahimovič Tenišev died on the 11th of July 2004. He was an outstanding and well-known Turcologist and a great organizer of scientific activities.

Tenišev was born on April 24, 1921, in Penza, into a family of Tatar intellectuals with ancestors of ancient Tatar princely ancestry, going back to the 14th century. From 1945 to 1949 he studied at the Eastern Faculty of the Leningrad University, where he chose Turcology as his special subject. His teachers included the well-known Turcologists N. K. Dmitriev, A. N. Kononov and S. E. Malov, with whom his further scientific activities were to be closely connected.

Under Malov's supervision Tenišev wrote his first thesis on the historical connections of the Kipchak languages. Malov advised his pupil to specialize in Old Turkic and to devote his Ph.D. thesis to a grammatical sketch of the Old Uyghur text *Altun yaruq*, on which his teacher had worked for many years.

In 1911 Malov had brought with him from Xinjiang a well preserved and practically complete Uyghur version of this Buddhist text. His trip to China had been sponsored, under Wilhelm Radloff's active support, by the Russian Committee for the Study of Central and Eastern Asia. Radloff and Malov worked together on editing the manuscript. Radloff, a member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, was the

leading Turcologist of that time, and Malov was a graduate of the Petersburg University. Malov became Radloff's pupil and his successor in the field of Old Turkic studies. Malov, in his turn, encouraged his pupil Tenišev, who was a graduate of his university, to take up the study of Old Uyghur.

Radloff had also made it possible for Malov to study the modern Turkic languages and dialects of Eastern Turkestan. Malov had collected rich linguistic materials on Yellow Uyghur, Salar and eastern Uyghur dialects. Tenišev continued these studies. He spent three years (1956-1959) in China collecting valuable linguistic materials, and afterwards published texts and grammatical descriptions of the less known Turkic languages Yellow Uyghur and Salar as well as dialects of modern Uyghur.

Thus Tenišev became the successor of the important Petersburg school founded by Radloff and continued by Malov. He also became Dmitrij M. Nasilov's mentor in the latter's postgraduate studies (1960–1963), recommending that he investigate the structure of the indicative tenses of Old Uyghur. Later on, Tenišev, Nasilov and other Turcologists became co-authors and co-editors of the Old Turkic dictionary that had been initiated by Radloff and continued by Malov. It was finished in Leningrad in 1969.

Tenišev also fulfilled the scientific wish of another of his teachers, N. K. Dmitriev, who led the Department of Turkic languages at the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences and simultaneously taught at the Eastern Faculty of the Leningrad University. In the early 1950s, Dmitriev initiated comparative-historical projects. In 1954, he invited Tenišev, whom he had known since his student's years, to work in Moscow as a specialist on Old Turkic. Dmitriev died at the end of 1954, but his scientific undertaking was later embodied in four volumes on comparative Turkic grammar.

After defending his candidate thesis in 1954, Tenišev began to work as a scientific assistant at the Department of Uralic and Altaic Languages at the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1964 he was appointed head of the department. In 1969 he defended his thesis to earn the advanced degree of Doctor of Philology. Practically his whole creative life was connected with this department, which he led for almost forty years, up to the end of his days.

At the Institute of Linguistics Tenišev continued the research in comparative-historical grammar. He planned and implemented a grandiose scientific program, the creation of a six-volume comparative-historical grammar of the Turkic languages carried out by a group of scholars in his department. The grammar deals with phonetics, morphology, syntax and lexicon in the historical development periods of the various groups of Turkic languages, Kipchak, Oghuz, Karluk and Siberian. This approach allowed steps in the direction of a reconstruction of a Pre-Turkic language. The final volume constructs a general picture of a Pre-Turkic language, including the most ancient concepts of Turks in the framework of their view of the world. Tenišev was not only the head of the comparative-historical project, but he also wrote many contributions to it. The general results of the project have been valued differently.

Certain positions may be disputable, and some hypotheses may rely on weak arguments. But the results allow modern Turcology to proceed further in its comparative research.

In the 1970s the Committee of Turcologists was founded in the Soviet Union. It played a great role in uniting the academic forces engaged in Turkic philology, thus promoting the formation of new subjects and an active exchange of scientific information. The Committee published the well-known and authoritative scholarly journal Sovetskaja Tjurkologija. From 1973 to 1986 the Committee was headed by the academician A. N. Kononov, one of Tenišev's teachers. After Kononov's death, it was led by Tenišev, who continued the traditions of his teacher and made strong efforts to consolidate Turcology in Russia and the neighboring countries. He organized joint scientific sessions, conferences, symposiums and seminars. His organizing talent, knowledge and excellent human qualities were widely appreciated.

Tenišev was the guru in the field of Turkic comparative grammar, the expert and the interpreter of Old Turkic texts, the talented researcher of living Turkic languages and their dialects. He contributed essentially to the history of the literary languages of the Turkic peoples. He was highly competent in Turkic ethnography and folklore. For example, he did much for the edition of the full version of the Kirghiz *Manas* epos. Tenišev's interest in the history of Turkic and written monuments allowed him to formulate an important scientific requirement, the strict distinction between the history of literary languages and the history of national languages. Turcologists have often neglected this, interpreting the facts of a written text as the reflection of synchronic phenomena of concrete living languages. They have also assigned written monuments, for instance the Orkhon Turkic texts, as belonging to one single Turkic people.

Tenišev also stressed the relevance of accounting for the stylistic differentiation of written texts. The use of sociolinguistic parameters allows a more precise representation of the development of literary languages in the various Turkic political formations. This approach to the study of the history of the Turkic literary languages had once been suggested by A. N. Samojlovič. Tenišev's work brought these ideas to life again, permitting a fuller treatment of the formation of literary styles in different historical periods.

Tenišev's scientific merits were recognized by the scientific world. He was elected correspondent member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, of the Finno-Ugric Society, and honorary member of the Turkish Linguistic Society. For many years he collaborated in the edition of the Linguistic atlas of Europe.

Tenišev headed a number of public foundations and organizations which served to preserve and develop the cultures of Turkic peoples, foremost of the smaller Turkic groups such as the Shor, Kumandy, Tofan, Chulym, Krimchak and Urum.

During his long scientific activity, Tenišev mentored more than 20 doctorates of science and 30 candidates of science. His pupils are found at many universities and institutes in the Turkic republics of Russia and the neighboring countries, former republics of the Soviet Union.

Until the last days of his life, Tenišev developed further interesting research plans in Turcology and Altaistics. It is now the duty of his colleagues, pupils and followers to bring these plans to fruition.

Thorughout his life, Tenišev preserved his natural intelligence, respectability and modesty. His pupils and colleagues could always feel his fatherly attitude towards them.

We know the roles of scientific traditions, the succession of ideas, education, preparation, mentorship, scientific vocation and fidelity to scholarly tasks. Tenišev's activity is an obvious case of true service to his mission and of a devoted love for the complex discipline of Turcology.

Turcologists who wished to express their deep respect for their senior colleague and teacher had prepared a collection of contributions in honor of the 80th anniversary of his birthday. But Tenišev passed away before this book appeared. The volume is now dedicated to his memory: *Altajskie jazyki i vostočnaja filologija. Pamjati Ė. R. Teniševa*. Moskva: Vostočnaja literatura, 2005. This book also contains a more complete list of his works. Tenišev's scientific heritage is vast and includes some 270 titles.

Ė. R. Tenišev's major publications

1961. Glagoly dviženija v tjurkskix jazykax. In: *Istoričeskoe razvitie leksiki tjurkskix jazykov*. Moskva: Nauka. 232-293.

1963a. Sistema soglasnyx v jazyke drevneujgurskix pamjatnikov ujgurskogo pis'ma Turfana i Gan'su. In: *Voprosy dialektologii tjurkskix jazykov 3*. Baku: Ilim. 124-135.

1963b. O dialektax ujgurskogo jazyka Sin'tszjana. In: *Tjurkologičeskie issledovanija: Sbornik statej*. Moskva-Leningrad: Izdatel'stvo Akademii nauk. 136-151.

1963c. *Salarskij jazyk*. Moskva: Vostočnaja literatura.

1964. *Salarskie teksty: Zapisi na salarskom jazyke i perevody*. Moskva: Izdatel'stvo Vostočnoj literatury.

1965a. Xozjajstvennye zapisi na drevneujgurskom jazyke. In: *Issledovanija po grammatike i leksike tjurkskix jazykov*. Taškent: Fan. 37-77.

1965b. Dolany i ix jazyk. In: *Issledovanija po ujgurskomu jazyku*. Alma-Ata: Nauka. 94-103.

1966a. O jazyke kyrgyzov ujezda Fujuj (KNR). *Voprosy jazykoznanija* 1966, 1: 88-96.

1966b. Drevnetjurkskaja ėpigrafika Altaja. In: *Tjurkologičeskij sbornik*. Moskva: Nauka. 262-265.

1969a. Ujgurskaja ėpigrafika Sin'tszjana. In: *Issledovanija po tjurkologii*. Alma-Ata: Nauka. 79-91.

1969b. *Drevnetjurkskij slovar'*. Leningrad: Nauka.

1971a. Pereboj *s/š* v tjurkskix runičeskix pamjatnikax. In: *Struktura i istorija tjurkskix jazykov: Sbornik statej*. Moskva: Nauka. 289-295.

1971b. Zametki o salarskoj leksike. In: *Voprosy tjurkologii*. Baku: Nauka. 165-171.

1973. Tjurkskaja istoričeskaja dialektologija i Maxmud Kašgarskij, *Sovetskaja tjurkologija* 1973:3, 54-61.

1974. Principy vydelenija dialektov ujgurskogo jazyka. *Voprosy jazykoznanija* 1974: 124-129.

1976a. *Stroj salarskogo jazyka*. Moskva: Nauka.

1976b. *Stroj saryg-jugurskogo jazyka*. Moskva: Nauka.

1977. Funkcional'no-stilističeskaja xarakteristika drevneujgurskogo literaturnogo jazyka. In: *Social'naja i funkcional'naja differenciacija literaturnyx jazykov: Sbornik statej.* Moskva: Nauka. 61-78.

1979. Jazyki drevne- i srednetjurkskix pis'mennyx pamjatnikov v funkcional'nom aspekte. *Voprosy jazykoznanija* 1979, 2: 80-91.

1981. O naddialektnoj prirode jazyka karaxanidsko-ujgurskix pis'mennyx pamjatnikov. In: *Tipy naddialektnyx form jazyka.* Moskva: Nauka. 266-277.

1982. K voprosu o proisxoždenii kirgizov i ix jazyka. *Sovetskaja tjurkologija* 1982, 4, 3-17.

1984a. *Ujgurskije teksty.* Moskva: Nauka.

1984b (ed.) *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Fonetika.* Moskva: Nauka.

1985. Sistema form suščestvovanija drevneujgurskogo jazyka. In: *Funkcional'naja stratifikacija jazyka.* Moskva: Nauka. 195-201.

1986 (ed.) & Gadžieva, N. Z. & Serebrennikov, B. A. *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Sintaksis.* Moskva: Nauka.

1988a. Principy sostavlenija istoričeskix grammatik i istorij literaturnyx tjurkskix jazykov. *Sovetskaja tjurkologija* 1988, 1: 67-85.

1988b. *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Morfologija.* Moskva: Nauka.

1990. *Ujgurskij dialektnyj slovar'.* Moskva: Vostočnaja literatura.

1997. *Drevnekyrgyzskij jazyk.* Biškek: Aqyl.

2000. O zonal'nyx jazykax mežnacional'nogo obščenija. In: *Res linguistica: Sbornik statej.* Moskva: Academia. 227-238.

2001a. *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Leksika.* Moskva: Nauka.

2001b. *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Regional'nye rekonstrukcii.* Moskva: Nauka.

2004. *Sravnitel'no-istoričeskaja grammatika tjurkskix jazykov: Pratjurkskij jazyk. Kartina mira pratjurkov.* Moskva: Nauka.

Sergej Starostin (1953-2005)

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This obituary is dedicated to the memory of Sergej Starostin (1953-2005).

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On Friday evening September 30, 2005, soon after finishing his lectures, Professor Sergej Anatol'evič Starostin passed away at the Russian State University of the Humanities in Moscow, at the age of 52. It was a sudden death, caused by coronary thrombosis. With due respect for the outstanding scholar he was, his ashes were interred on October 4, on Donskoe kladbišče, Moscow's most graceful cemetery. He is survived by his widow, Dr. Natalja Starostina, née Čalisova, and his sons Dr. George Starostin and Mr. Anatolij Starostin.

Sergej Starostin was born on March 24, 1953 in Moscow. After attending secondary school, he studied linguistics at the Moscow State University, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in 1975. In 1978 he received a Master's degree in Linguistics from the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow, and in the following year he became *kandidat nauk* in Linguistics at the same institute. His candidate dissertation, comparable to a Ph.D. thesis, was titled *Rekonstrukcija drevnekitajskoj fonologičeskoj sistemy*. It served as the basis for his reference work on the reconstruction of Old Chinese phonology, published a decade later, in 1989.

Starostin worked as a research fellow at the department of Languages of the Oriental Institute from 1979 until 1985, when he became a senior researcher. Since 1987 he lectured in Comparative Linguistics at Moscow State University, at the department of Structural and Computational Linguistics. In 1988 he joined the editorial board of the journal *Voprosy jazykoznanija*. His doctorate in Linguistics, the Russian equivalent of habilitation, took place at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow, in 1992. He earned this degree after the publication of *Altajskaja problema i pro-isxoždenie japonskogo jazyka* in 1991. In the year of his doctorate, he was appointed chair for Comparative Linguistics and Ancient Languages at the Russian State University of the Humanities in Moscow and he became a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.

In 1997, at the age of 44, Starostin was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a honour unparalleled by other scholars of the same age and of similar specialisation. He frequently gave guest lectures at the department of comparative linguistics at Leiden University in the Netherlands, where he took also part as a visiting scholar in Prof. Dr. F. Kortlandt's Spinoza Prize project in 1999. Since 2001 Starostin led an international research project on the linguistic prehistory of humanity, initiated by Nobel price winner Prof. Dr. M. Gell-Mann and coordinated by the Santa Fe Institute. Four months before his decease, on June 7, 2005, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Leiden under promotorship of Prof. Dr. A. Lubotsky.

Though this obituary is not the adequate place for an evaluation of Starostin's prolific scholarly work, a brief summary of his major achievements along with a list of selected publications may be allowed. We remember Starostin as the leading figure of the Moscow school of comparative linguistics. This school takes an approach to comparative linguistics that somewhat differs from the traditional attitude. Although the Moscow school adheres to the same methodological criteria of regularity of sound change, they work on the problem of long-range genetic hypotheses like Nostratic and Dene-Caucasian. For Starostin's own description of the Moscow school and of the methodology of long-range comparison, I refer to respectively article 1995c and 1999b in the list of selected publications below.

The difference between Moscow and mainstream linguistics is not a methodological, but rather a practical one. Working at deeper time-depths, earlier than the 5th millennium B.C., there is a heavy reliance on reconstruction. The emphasis is on data-processing because the amount of data increases exponentially when a new linguistic family is added to a macro-family. This explains Starostin's particular interest in modern computer technology. For the development and management of a growing collection of etymological databases, Starostin developed a software package "Starling" (http://starling.rinet.ru). Masterminding the Tower of Babel project, he and his team compiled a hierarchical system of etymological databases and made them accessible through the Internet for anyone in the field. The databases are freely browseable on the Web and include Altaic, Dravidian, Caucasian, Yeni-seian, Sino-Tibetan, Indo-European, Austro-Asiatic, Chukchi-Kamchatkan, and Se-mitic. Contrary to

traditional comparative practice, the Moscow school relies on the application of statistical methods for subgrouping and for linguistic dating. A contribution to the field of lexicostatistics is Starostin's revision of Swadesh's glotto-chronological equation, described in an article written in Russian (1989b) and translated into English (1999a and 2000).

In 1984 Starostin proposed the Sino-Caucasian macro-family, comprising the North Caucasian, Sino-Tibetan and Yeniseian language families. Some years later, in 1988, his colleague Nikolaev argued for a relationship between Starostin's Sino-Caucasian and the Na-Dene languages of North America. After this, the term Dene-Caucasian came into use to describe the expanded macro-family. While Starostin insisted on the preliminary nature of the comparison, he considered wider connections between Nostratic and Sino-Caucasian (1989c).

Regardless of our appreciation of long-distance genetic comparison like Nostratic and Dene-Caucasian and regardless of our confidence in the application of statistical methods, we cannot but acknowledge Starostin's outstanding contributions to historical linguistics at shallower time-depths: North Caucasian, Old Chinese, Sino-Tibetan, and Altaic.

Since the beginning of the eighties Starostin and Nikolaev were co-operating on a massive comparative dictionary of the North Caucasian languages. Together they took part in linguistic expeditions to the Caucasus under direction of Kibrik. For political reasons, the North Caucasian etymological dictionary could not be published until 1994. And so, it was preceded by "Hurro-Urartian as an East Caucasian Language", co-authored by D'jakonov and published in Munich, in 1986.

Being a productive year, 1989 saw the publication of Starostin's monograph on the reconstruction of the Old Chinese phonological system. It is a revision of his doctoral dissertation (1979), published in Russian. Along with Baxter's handbook of Old Chinese phonology (1992), the book is used throughout linguistic literature as the dominant reference work on Old Chinese reconstruction. This work further provided an important source for the comparative dictionary of Sino-Tibetan languages, published in 1996 in co-authorship with Pejros.

For the readership of *Turkic Languages* Sergej Starostin will probably be best remembered for his contributions in relation to the Altaic hypothesis, including Japanese and Korean. A new stage in comparative Altaic studies is represented by his 1991 monograph on the Altaic problem and the origin of the Japanese language. The book is written in Russian, but translated into Korean under the title "*Alt'ai pigyo yŏngu*" in 1996. Starostin contributes hundreds of lexical comparisons of Turkic, Mongolic, Tungusic, Korean and Japanese not available in the earlier literature. In cooperation with a team of scholars, among whom Dybo and Mudrak, an Altaic database is made accessible via the Internet. The accumulation of etymologies in the database results in the monumental three volumes "Etymological Dictionary of the Altaic Languages" published in 2003. The dictionary presents 2800 Altaic etymologies and opens many new data for further consideration, refinement or refutation.

As a doctoral student at the department of comparative linguistics in Leiden, I was privileged to be mentored by professor Starostin. During his research funded by the Spinoza Prize project in 1999, we shared the same office. Later, in 2000, I was invited to his *alma mater* in Moscow, where I was so fortunate to attend some of the Altaic sessions in company of Dybo, Mudrak, Gruntov, Glumov and many other linguists who occasionally dropped by to contribute their ideas. It was in May and, although quite cold for the time of the year, the central heating in the institute had been turned off. Beating the cold with hats, caps, scarfs and traditional Russian drinks, we all gathered around one computer, discussing the material of the Altaic database. People with dictionaries opened on their laps, people brainstorming, people suggesting new etymologies and criticizing old ones. I was caught by the enthousiasm and impressed by the open atmosphere, free for anyone to enter the office or the debate. Sergej Starostin was a strong and inspiring man. He was a team worker. He would listen carefully to his colleagues' criticism. His counter-argumentation was well-built, vigorous and merciless, but it would never cross the border of respect. For me he will always be the man, who after a heated discussion, sighs, nods his head, proceeds to the balcony, lights a cigarette and then, disarmingly, starts a cosy chat about the weather. All in smiles.

List of selected publications

1984. Gipoteza o genetičeskix svjazjax sino-tibetskix jazykov s enisejskimi i severnokavkaz-skimi jazykami. In: *Lingvističeskaja rekonstrukcija i drevnejšaja istorija Vostoka.* 19-38.

1986a. [with I. M. D'jakonov] *Hurro-Urartian as an East Caucasian Language.* München: Kitzinger.

1986b. Problema genetičeskoj obščnosti altajskix jazykov. In: *Istoriko-kul'turnye kontakty narodov altajskoj jazykovoj obščnosti. Tezisy XXIX sessii PIAC* 2.104-12.

1989a. *Rekonstrukcija drevnekitajskoj fonologičeskoj sistemy.* Moscow: Nauka.

1989b. Sravitel'no-istoričeskoe jazykoznanie i leksikostatistika. In: *Lingvističeskaja rekonstrukcija i drevnejšaja istorija Vostoka.* 3-39.

1989c. Nostratic and Sino-Caucasian. In: *Explorations in language macrofamilies.* 42-67.

1991. *Altajskaja problema i proisxoždenie japonskogo jazyka.* Moscow: Nauka.

1994. [with S. L. Nikolaev] *A North Caucasian etymological dictionary.* Moscow: Asterisk Publishers.

1995a. Old Chinese basic vocabulary: a historical perspective. In: *The ancestry of Chinese language. Journal of Chinese Linguistics.* (Monograph series 8.) 292-404.

1995b. On vowel length and prosody in Altaic languages. *Moskovskij lingvističeskij žurnal* 1: 191-235.

1995c. O Moskovskoj škole sravnitel'nogo jazykoznanija. *Moskovskij lingvističeskij žurnal* 1: 10-13.

1996a. [with I. I. Pejros] *A comparative dictionary of Sino-Tibetan languages.* Melbourne: University Press.

1996b. *Alt'ai pigyo yŏngu.* Seoul: Tosŏ ch'ulp'an.

1996c. Vokalizm altajskix jazykov. In: *90 let N. A. Baskakovu.* 197-209.

1997. On the "consonant splits" in Japanese. In: *Indo-European, Nostratic, and beyond: Festschrift for Vitalij V. Shevoroshkin. Journal of Indo-European Studies.* (Monograph series 22.) 326-342.

1999a. Comparative-historical linguistics and lexicostatistics. In: *Historical Linguistics and Lexicostatistics*, 3-50.

1999b. Methodology of long-range comparison. In: *Historical Linguistics and Lexicostatistics*, 61-67.

1999c. Subgrouping of Nostratic: comments on Aharon Dolgopolsky's "The Nostratic macrofamily and linguistic paleontology". In: *Nostratic: Examining a linguistic macrofamily.* 137-156.

1999d. The problem of genetic relationship and classification of Caucasian languages: basic vocabulary. In: *Studies in Caucasian Linguistics*, 79-95.

2000. Comparative-historical linguistics and lexicostatistics. In: *Time Depth in Historical Linguistics*, 223-259.

2002. Nostratic stops revisited. In: *Languages and their speakers in Ancient Eurasia*, 3-7.

2003a. [with A.V. Dybo & O. A. Mudrak] *Etymological dictionary of the Altaic languages.* Brill: Leiden.

2003b. [with A. Lubotsky] Turkic and Chinese loan words in Tocharian. In: Bauer, Brigitte L. M. & Pinault, Georges J. (eds.) *Language in time and space. A Festschrift for Werner Winter on the occasion of his 80th birthday.* (Trends in linguistics: Studies and monographs 144.) Berlin: de Gruyter. 257-269.