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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, Teniřev 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.

Throughout his life, Teniřev 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. Teniřev'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 Teniřev passed away before this book appeared. The volume is now dedicated to his memory: *Altajskie jazyki i vostočnaja filologija. Pamjati Ė. R. Teniřeva*. Moskva: Vostočnaja literatura, 2005. This book also contains a more complete list of his works. Teniřev's scientific heritage is vast and includes some 270 titles.

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