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The present issue of *TURKIC LANGUAGES* begins with an obituary of Aleksandr M. Ščerbak, who passed away in January, 2008. Dmitrij Nasilov and Irina Nevskaya draw an interesting picture of the life and work of this great scholar, one of the last representatives of a veritably heroic generation of general Turcologists.

The issue contains six articles, as usual covering very different topics and various parts of the vast Turkic-speaking world.

Vladimir D. Monastyr'ev gives an account of the historical development of the script systems and orthographic norms employed for the Yakut language. The survey includes the script used by the Orthodox missionaries, Otto Böhlingk's alphabet, Semen Novgorodov's phonetic alphabet (1924-1929), the Roman-based script (1929-1939) and the present-day Cyrillic script.

Eyüp Bacanlı deals with phase marking by means of initiotransformative verbs in Altay Turkic, one of the standard languages of South Siberia. The author presents various Altay initiotransformative lexemes, which express both an initial dynamic phase and a posttransformative nondynamic phase. He examines their interaction with case markers and with adverbs indicating direction, temporal limit and duration, as well as the role of auxiliaries in distinguishing the phases.

Julian Rentzsch explores some aspects of modern Uyghur morphology, investigating a number of opaque or irregular forms resulting from morphological reduction as part of grammaticalization processes. The author argues that the forms are products of regular developments and endeavors to reconstruct their no longer obvious origins.

Sohrab Dolatkah publishes an edition of a Kashkay folktale, including transcription, notes on the transcription, translation and comments on the Kashkay oral literature. The author, who is himself a native speaker of the variety in question, has recorded the tale with an informant of the Amaleh tribe of the Kashkay tribal confederation.

Matthias Kappler's contribution is devoted to contact-induced effects on the syntax of Cypriot Turkish varieties, which differ from Turkish varieties of Turkey mainly in the domain of syntax. The syntactic features have not, however, been analyzed sufficiently in previous research. The author compares object and relative clauses introduced by complementizers with corresponding Greek Cypriot constructions, arguing that the constructions have an underlying 'cleft strategy'. He also deals with Cypriot Turkish subjunctive clauses, the modal marker *hazır* and the evidential marker *imiş* in terms of Turkish-Greek language contact.

Finally, Mine Nakipoğlu and Aslı Üntak present a word count of Turkish verbs, a lexicon said to be exhaustive, based on and analyzed according to morphemic criteria.

Three reviews conclude the issue:

Martine Robbeets examines two books on Manchu and Mongolic verbal morphology published by Kyōko Maezono: one on intransitive, transitive, causative and passive verbs, and one on verb formation suffixes.

Béla Kempf reviews a Festschrift presented to the distinguished scholar Denis Sinor on the occasion of his 90th birthday, especially commenting on the Mongolistic contributions to the volume.

Mark Kirchner evaluates a book on language discussions in Turkey published by Astrid Menz and Christoph Schroeder on the basis of papers given at an interdisciplinary symposium held in 2004 in Istanbul. The reviewer particularly comments on the ‘language’ (*dil*) vs. ‘dialect’ (*lehçe*) controversies among Turkish Turcologists.

Lars Johanson