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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES

19 – 23 AUGUST 2019

NOVOTEL, ATHENS, GREECE

-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS-

BOOK 1 | VOL. 2

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Published by SAIMA CONSULT LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria.
Total print 100

ISSN 2603-4107
ISBN 978-619-7495-05-8
DOI 10.32008/NORDSCI2019/B1/V2

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UNPUBLISHED MANSI DICTIONARY BY P. S. PALLAS – AN UNKNOWN MANSI DIALECT?

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ABSTRACT

This article presents the research of the recently discovered Mansi dictionary rewritten by A.M. Shegren from the Pallas archive. The uniqueness of this source lays in the fact that its data do not correspond to any known dialects, but has lexical similarities with the Mansi dialect spoken along the Berezovo river. In order to clarify the dialectical identity of this dictionary we had a detailed analysis based on the Proto-Mansi reconstruction and the material of the modern Mansi dialects. Also this archival material was analyzed from the point of the dialectal differentiating isoglosses. The research indicated that the language of that new dictionary has a number of characteristics which are absent in other Mansi dialects.

Keywords: *Mansi language, archive data, unknown dialect, Pallas dictionary*

INTRODUCTION

For the last few years there have been discovered about ten ancient and unstudied works on the Mansi language. Each of the found sources (dictionaries, translated prayer books) brings unique information on the insufficiently explored Mansi language and its dialects. Even a short 16-17 century dictionary can make a substantial addition to the knowledge. Thus, the graphic and phonetic analysis showed interesting result on verification of Mansi dictionaries by A. Kannisto and B. Munkachi [1]. It's worth mentioning that the author, year, place and dialects are not known for some of the used sources.

The dictionary covered in this article is exactly of the ones mentioned above: it's been rewritten in the 19th century by A.M. Shegren from the archive of P.S. Pallas [2]. The latter was collecting glossaries from all over the Russian Empire for his "Comparative Dictionaries of All Languages and Dialects" (Pallas 1790-1791). The glossary we studied was not included in the Pallas's dictionaries and, moreover, is lexically different from the dialects mentioned in "Comparative Dictionaries". Here are a few Mansi words Pallas has not included in his work: *нуми тормъ-канъ* 'sky', *велтъ* 'face', *вý* 'star'. The unknown glossary we cover has lexical similarities with the Mansi dialect spoken along the Berezovo river:

[5] Slovtsov K. An attempt of a Russian-Vogul dictionary and translations to the Vogul language / Compiled by the priest of Verhnepelymskij (Spasskij) parish father Konstantin (Slovtsov). Tobolsk, 1905.

[6] Honti L. Geschichte des obugrischen Vokalismus der ersten Silbe. Budapest, 1982.

[7] Kannisto A. Wogulische Volksdichtung. Bd. VII. Wörterverzeichnuss / Gesammelt und übersetzt von Kannisto A. Bearb. von Liimola M., Eiras V. Hrsg. Eiras V. Helsinki, 2013.

[8] Munkácsi B., Kálmán B. Wogulisches Wörterbuch / Gesammelt von Munkácsi B. Geordnet, bearb. und hrsg. von Kálmán B. Budapest, 1986.

[9] Munkácsi B. A Vogul Nyelvjárások szóragozásukban ismertetve, Budapest, 1894.