

Anent the the first dictionaries in Yakut language (survey analysis of dictionaries published before 1935)

Nadezhda Efremova

North-East Federal University named after M.K. Ammosova, 42, Kulakovskiy, Yakutsk, 677016, Russia

Abstract. The article is devoted to a survey analysis of the first dictionaries in the Yakut language published before 1935. The author raises the question of developing new dictionaries of various types. The purpose of this study is to describe the first dictionaries that were published by the Yakut intelligentsia in the era of the elimination of illiteracy among people. The principles of development and uniqueness of dictionary entries are revealed. The main methodological guideline of this research is the works of the leading Russian scientists in the field of lexicography, among which are L.P. Stupin, L.V. Shcherba. The scope of the results application: a) can be used when developing the translation, terminological, and spelling dictionaries; b) conclusions and materials contained in the study can serve as an additional source in the study of the lexicography of the Yakut language. As a result of the study, we come to the conclusion that the Yakut lexicography dates back to 1849 and is associated with the names of such prominent scientists as O. N. Betlingk and E. K. Pekarsky. Their dictionaries were written in German and represented as additional material to the study of the language of the Yakut people as a kind of national language. After the October Revolution, the Yakut intelligentsia, represented by I.P. Budishchev, S.N. Donskoy-I, V.P. Antonov-Saratovsky, P.A.Oyunsky. All of them were interested in the education of the native people. These dictionaries were compiled in the first Novgorodian alphabet and were a reference material for communicating with the Russian-speaking audience.

1 Introduction

The development of dictionaries in little-studied national languages remains an urgent and paramount task facing modern linguists. Any dictionary is a historical monument of the language and writing of an ethnic group. The level of study, development and preservation of the language itself is reflected in dictionaries. Therefore, dictionaries have their own history, stages of formation as one of the linguistics branches.

There are different types of dictionaries: explanatory, translation, spelling, phraseological, etymological, historical, terminological, dialectological, poetic, stylistic, dictionaries of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, foreign words, etc.

Yakut lexicography dates back to 1849, even before the origin of Yakut writing. The first academic publication describing the Yakut language at a sufficiently high scientific level is the grammar of the German scientist O.N. Betlingk About the Yakut language [1]. Along with grammar, the author compiled the Yakut-German Dictionary containing 4,656 words (according to N.D. Dyachkovsky). This dictionary laid the foundation for the Yakut lexicography. When compiling the dictionary, the author was guided by the ethnographic notes of A. F. Middendorf, as well as the memoirs of A. Ya. Uvarovsky. The advantage of this dictionary is the comparison of Yakut words with other

Turkic and Mongolian languages. Auxiliary verbs are widely interpreted, for example: *orduk*, *olor*, *ilik*, *kebis*, *kyn (gyn)*, *buol*, *baar*, etc.

O. N. Betlingk's work was continued by the political exiled E.K. Pekarsky, who spent a quarter of his life in Yakutia. His unique work Dictionary of the Yakut language (1907-1930) [2] in three volumes, published in German is truly an encyclopedia of the Yakut language and is considered one of the best dictionaries of the Turkic languages. Being in political exile, E.K. Pekarsky studied the Yakut language, its folklore, life and customs of the Sakha people. Pekarsky's dictionary became the Main source in the compilation of the fifteen-volume Large explanatory dictionary of the Yakut language. The completeness of the collected lexical material, the reliability of word interpretation, the examples from folklore, the quality of the textual and grammatical processing of lexemes amazes modern researchers of the grammar of the Yakut language. There is an opinion that S. A. Novgorodov, the founder of the first Yakut alphabet, helped E.K. Pekarsky in the editing of dictionary entries. In many sources, scientists write that E.K. Pekarsky, upon returning to St. Petersburg, met with Semyon Novgorodov, the student of St. Petersburg Institute of Oriental Languages. Being literate, erudite, knowing many languages, including German, Novgorodov agrees to edit the vocabulary material collected by E.K. Pekarsky. The modern linguist is

* Corresponding author: enadin1979@mail.ru

interested and curious that there is not a single erroneous interpretation of words in the dictionary entries. In addition, all the examples recorded in the dictionary find a very precise and intricate confirmation in stable phrases, sentences, proverbs, sayings, and paremias. Only a native speaker can properly use words and their variations in living speech. Before the publication of the dictionary of E.K. Pekarsky, S.A. Novgorodov died of a serious illness, and his name, unfortunately, is not in the dictionary.

2 Materials and Methods

A survey analysis of the first dictionaries of the Yakut language was compiled on the material of primary sources posted on the website of the electronic library of the National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) named after S. A. Novgorodov. The effort of the author of this article is aimed at a structural description and identification of the value and uniqueness of each dictionary. The examples of dictionary entries are given.

3 Results

Back in 1905, E.K. Pekarsky published the Concise Russian-Yakut Dictionary from the funds of the Yakut Regional Statistical Committee [3]. This dictionary can be viewed as a translation dictionary: it has no interpretation of the meaning of words. For example: *vargan - khomus (khamys)*, *Venus (planet) - Cholbon*, *thief - ylygas*, *harbor (rychnaya) - homo*; *voice - sarra*, *hump - bokchöjör*, *ready - bäläm*, *distance - yrah*, *täjichchi, to be friends - atastas, dojordos, once - sootokhto*. The same dictionary was supplemented and republished in 1916 at the printing house of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Petrograd with a foreword by Associate Professor A. N. Samoilovich [4].

In 1925, I.P. Budishchev published the Russian-Yakut Dictionary [5], containing the simplest and most necessary words for colloquial speech in order to eliminate illiteracy and teach the Russian language. The dictionary was a reference manual for students on the elimination of Yakut and Russian technical illiteracy, compiled according to the principle of a thematic selection (count, pronoun, adjectives, kinship, clothing, house, building and things in the yard, carpentry and blacksmith tools, household utensils, pets, harness, time, names of months, names of days of the week, agricultural implements, hunting equipment, names of animals, mountain game, birds of prey, non-predatory birds, birds, trees, shrubs, etc.). One may assess this reference book as the first methodological experience of teaching Russian to a Sakha-speaking audience. The author recorded a total of 2,530 words with translation into Russian, grouped them into 40 different topics. At the end of the handbook there are thematic blocks of interrogative sentences called Sample Conversations, which are actively used in everyday colloquial speech (in the market, in a store, hospital, at home, on the road, when buying firewood and hay) to be memorized.

In 1930, the author's Pocket Russian-Yakut Dictionary by S. N. Donskoy-1 was published [6]. The dictionary was designed for people eliminating illiteracy in the Yakut language, as well as a reference book of words for translation from Yakut into Russian, from Russian into Yakut. The annotation to the dictionary was written by P.A. Oyunsky. The words were arranged in the alphabetical order and written in Latin letters. For example: *doctor - luoqtuur*, *emçit, grief - ülüger*, *sanaa-onoo*, *yard - olbor*, *tusaha*, *bottom - tugeq*, *lark - kyöreej*, *stallion - atır*, *breakfast - kynysky ahylık*, *statement - tüllabiür*, *game - oohjony*, *underpants - bakkü*. The dictionary includes lexical units that were actively used in the colloquial speech of the Yakuts of that time. It should be noted that most of the words were neologisms, i.e. new words that were not in the lexical composition of the Yakut language. Some of these words have found an equal equivalent in the Sakha language.

В 1931 году в Москве и Ленинграде в издательствах
In 1931, in Moscow and Leningrad, the publishing houses of the Association of State Book and Magazine Publishing Houses of Physical Culture and Tourism published the Russian-Yakut Speech Reference Book [7], the language material of which covers words and phrases that are most often used and serve the most elementary needs of travelers. The author of the reference book is V.P. Antonov-Saratovsky, the translator is I.D. Novgorodov. The foreword of the handbook indicates that the powerful growth of Soviet (proletarian) tourism, as a broad social and political movement, extremely sharply posed the task of equipping our tourists who know the Russian language with such a manual that would give the opportunity for the simplest language orientation among a multinational and multilingual population of the USSR [7, p. 3]. The uniqueness of the speech reference book is in its pragmatism. A Russian-speaking person could find a translation of necessary phrases in the Yakut language and read it out, since the translation into the Yakut language is written in Russian letters. In total, 40 topics are covered: greetings, approvals / disapproval, travel conversations, visiting, bathing, hairdresser, clothes, shoes, linen, mending, washing, ironing, etc. Let us give the examples from a speech reference book: *Is there anyone who knows Russian here? - Manna nucchalı biller kisi bar duo?*; *Be healthy - Etengnge sydzhdzhyn*; *By this you offend me. - Manan esigi migin battygyt ebet*; *What dangers are on the way:: a stormy river, bad roads, abysses, talus, landslides, precipices, cracks in the ice, snowfall, snowstorm, lack of water, robbers, wild animals? - Ara sol tokh kuttalokhy: surukteh yurekh, dirin appalar, sir bystybyta, sir haydybyta, mus delbit ystammyta, hardakh burhat, uta soh kuranakh sir, orosbuoynutkar, aras kyllar ballar duo ?; Save me (him) - Abyr. Bysa .; Take the dogs away. - Yty buoy, tokhtot.*

In 1935, the first spelling dictionary of the Yakut language was published, which was called Russian-Yakut term and spelling dictionary [8], prepared under the leadership of a prominent public and political figure of the Yakut ASSR P.A. Oyunsky. This dictionary was compiled in the Latin alphabet, created in 1917 by S.A. Novgorodov, which existed until 1939 (transition to the

Russian alphabet). This is the first broadly applied terminological dictionary in the history of Yakut linguistics. The main difference and value of this dictionary is the Yakut terminology foundation content. New words that have become part of the active vocabulary of the Yakut population were codified and borrowed in a variety of ways, convenient for the Sakha-speaking intelligentsia. Most of the terms are transcribed or look very Yakutian. For example: *intermission* - *antyraak*, *beads* - *biiser*, *Volga* - *Buolga*, *governor-general* - *genjereel-kyberineeter*, *associate professor* - *dassyan*, *yarmulke* - *çorbuonka*, *Geneva* - *Senjiebe*, *manager* - *sapquos*, *idealism* - *idijeliisime*, *quarantine* - *qarantь*. However, not all terms entered the Yakut language in this way. One third of the lexical units found a replacement or an equal equivalent from the very vocabulary of the Yakut language. Thus, the most common Yakut words, mainly nouns, have undergone a process of definition. For example: *muckrake* - *çeebehit*, *hesitation* - *dolgulçujuu*, *quantity* - *tøhø*, *sacrum* - *qonqocoq uñuoqa*, *brass* - *çes*, *glacier* - *muus omuhaqa*, *liar* - *smøjaccьk*, *raspberries* - *bie emije*, *plural* - *elbeusteeqa* - *elbeusteeqa*

4 Discussion

The problem of the development of lexicography in national languages since the Soviet period has been discussed at large discussion platforms, congresses, scientific conferences, forums by leading scientists like L.P. Stupin [9], L.V. Shcherba [10]. The issue of creating dictionaries of various types in the Yakut language remains relevant to this day. A whole team of researchers from the sector of lexicology and lexicography of the Yakut language of the Institute for the Humanities and Problems of Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences under the leadership of Academician P.A. Sleptsov.

Since the 1930s short translation dictionaries had been developed. The main purpose of such dictionaries was to study the Yakut and Russian languages at the initial stage. Among these dictionaries are as follows: Brief Terminological Dictionary (1944) by P. P. Barashkov, Russian-Yakut Dictionary by N. N. Pavlov, I. N. Popova (1948, 1949), academic Russian-Yakut Dictionary containing 28,500 words (1968), Yakut-Russian Dictionary containing 25,300 words (1972), Phraseological Dictionary of the Yakut language by N. S. Grigorieva (1974), Dialectological Dictionary of the Yakut Language (1976, 1995), Brief Dictionary of the Yakut Language by G.F. Sivtsev (1979), Brief Dictionary of Synonyms of the Yakut Language by N.A. Allakhsky, Kh.Kh. Lukovtsev (1982), Brief Explanatory Dictionary of the Yakut Language by P.S. Afanasyev (1994), two-volume Yakut-Russian Phraseological Dictionary of the Yakut language by A.G. Nelunova (1998, 2002), Spelling Dictionary of the Yakut Language (2015), Russian-Yakut, Yakut-Russian Dictionary (2018) T. I. Petrova.

The improvement of national culture after the October Revolution victory stimulated the development of the terminology of the Yakut literary language. It is important to note that terminological dictionaries continue to be published in Yakut linguistics. Today we have more than 50 terminological dictionaries for various branches of science and life (social and political, legal, medical, mathematical, geographical, physical, chemical, poetic, biological, psychological and pedagogical, economic, industrial, sports, etc.).

A great achievement in Turkic linguistics is connected with the release of the fifteen-volume Large Explanatory Dictionary of the Yakut Language (2004-2018) prepared by the team of the Yakut language lexicography department of the Institute for Humanitarian Research and Problems of Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences under the leadership of Academician P.A. Sleptsov [11]. The dictionary is compiled on the basis of a three-million academic card index created by the sector of lexicology and lexicography of the Institute of Language, Literature and History. The card index began to be replenished in 1972. Its main sources were the best examples of oral folklore, classic folk writers, periodicals of different times, popular science publications, textbooks, anthologies.

The multivolume large academic dictionary of the Yakut language in its design and target setting is a national dictionary of the registering type. The main content and direction of this type of dictionary is expressed in the following words of the famous historian of lexicography, Professor L.P. Stupin: Evolution of the explanatory dictionary of the national language from a prescriptive dictionary to a registering dictionary is a natural qualitative transition in the development of national lexicography, reflecting, in particular, the desire of lexicographers for a more scientific and objective consideration of language as a social phenomenon [12].

5 Conclusion

Thus, the first dictionaries concerning the Yakut language mainly adhered to the collective, translation, and also the normative-descriptive principles. The purpose of creating such dictionaries is, first of all, to retain the lexical composition of the Yakut language as one of the Turkic national languages within the framework of ethnographic research. For example, the three-volume Dictionary of the Yakut Language by E. K. Pekarsky (1907-1930) from the day the first volume was published and is still known as one of the best dictionaries of the Turkic languages. In many respects, E.K. Pekarsky's dictionary is a unique and unsurpassed example of the world lexicography. During the establishment of the Soviet power in Yakutia in the 1920s and 1930s, short translation dictionaries prepared by various authors served as the necessary educational material for the elimination of illiteracy and contributed to the teaching of the Russian language for the consolidation of the proletarian peoples of the Soviet Union.

The first spelling dictionary called Russian-Yakut Term and Spelling Dictionary, prepared by the largest organizer of the linguistic and cultural development, the founder of Yakut Soviet literature, P.A. Oyunsky, deserves great attention. In those years, the creators of the dictionary, scientist-researcher, Yakutovist L.N. writing was worth a lot of work. It was during the period that the Yakut language adopted new words, which gradually switched to Yakut. For example: eröbölöyssyye 'revolution', wasakh 'flag', hommuuna 'commune', sudarystyba 'state', byrabytalyba 'government', dyokutaat 'deputy', baartyya 'party', siyies 'congress', sekereteer 'secretary', homunyuus, oscuola 'school', kylaas 'class', uchuutal 'teacher', ustudyuon 'student', delageet 'delegate', paai 'pay', noluoq 'tax', balyyha 'hospital', siestere 'nurse', ukuol 'injection', bakhssyn 'vaccine', etc.

The above words have become an integral part of the colloquial and written speech of the Sakha-speaking population and today are perceived as 'our own, native'. The Yakut press (authoritative publications such as newspapers *Kyym*, *Sakha Sire*, magazines *Cholbon*, *Kurulgen*, *Bayanay*, *Dalbar Khotun*) use these words, in the form in which they were recorded in the first normative dictionary.

The study was carried out on the basis of the Department of Stylistics of the Yakut Language and Russian-Yakut Translation of the Institute of Languages and Culture of the Peoples of the North-East of the Russian Federation, North-Eastern Federal University named after M.K. Ammosov and National Library of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) named after S.A. Novgorodov.

References

1. O.N. Betlingk, *About the Yakut language*. (Novosibirsk, Russia: Science, 1990)
2. E.K. Pekarsky, *Dictionary of the Yakut language*. (Moscow, 1959)
3. E.K. Pekarsky (ed) *Brief Russian-Yakut Dictionary* (Yakutsk Regional Printing House, 1905)
4. E.K. Pekarsky (ed) *Concise Russian-Yakut Dictionary*. (Petrograd, Russia: Printing house of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, 1915)
5. I.P. Budishchev, *Russian-Yakut Dictionary, containing the simplest and most necessary words for colloquial speech: (reference manual for students on the elimination of Yakut and Russian technical illiteracy)*: (Yakutsk, Russia: publisher cooperative Leninets, 1926)
6. S.N. Donskoy, *Pocket Russian-Yakut Dictionary*. (Yakutsk, Russia: Yakutgosizdat, 1930)
7. V.P. Antonov-Saratovsky, I.D. Novgorodov (ed), *Russian-Yakut Speech Reference Book* (Moscow, Leningrad, Publishing Houses of Physical Culture and Tourism - physical culture and tourism, 1931)
8. P.A. Oyunsky, L.N. Kharitonov (ed), *Russian-Yakut Term and Spelling Dictionary* Njuuccalbb-sagslbb tierminneeg- arpagbraapbja tllarbn kinjigete (Moscow, State Educational Pedagogical Publishing House, 1935)
9. L.P. Stupin, What should be a dictionary: prescriptive or registering. *Language and Society*, **5**. (Saratov, 1978)
10. L.V. Shcherba, *Experience of the general theory of lexicography. Language system and speech activity*. (Leningrad, Russia: Science, 1974)
11. P.A. Sleptsov, *About new type of explanatory dictionary of Turkic languages. Steps and problems of Yakut linguistics*. (Yakutsk, Council for Language Policy under the President of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), 2008)
12. L.P. Stupin, *The problem of the normativity of English lexicography (XV-XX centuries)*. (Leningrad, Russia: Leningrad State University, 1979)