Description of Minority Languages in Russia on the Basis of Census Data, Sound Archives and Fieldwork

Tjeerd de Graaf, Mercator Centre
tdegraaf@fryske-akademy.nl

Budapest, 28 April 2015
Contents

• Fryske Akademy and Mercator Centre
• UNESCO Atlas on Endangered Languages
• Language Vitality in Siberia
• Census data 1926 – 2010
• Materials for Language Maintenance
• Sound Archives and Fieldwork
• Fieldwerk on Sakhalin; the Nivkh
• Foundation for Siberian Cultures
Publications Mercator

- Research reports, articles, newsletters
- Regional dossiers series

45 language descriptions with:
- Hungarian in Slovakia, Slovenia
- Romani, Beash in Hungary
- Saami, Finnish in Sweden

www.mercator-research.eu


Second updated edition – 2001 - in English only. 800 languages on 90 pages, 14 maps.


For each language, the print Atlas provides:
- name
- degree of endangerment
- country or countries where it is spoken.
1. Most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains (e.g. home)

2. Children no longer learn the language as mother tongue in the home

3. Language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves

4. The youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently

5. There are no speakers left

Language Vitality

Vulnerable  Definitely endangered  Severely endangered  Critically endangered  Extinct (since the 1950s)
Proportion of endangered languages in the world
The peoples of Siberia
Endangered Languages in North-eastern Asia

Ainu (JPN; RUS)
Aleut (RUS)
Alutor (RUS)
Arman (RUS)
Baraba Tatar (RUS)
Bashkir (RUS)
Buryat (CHN; MNG; RUS)
Central Selkup (RUS)
Central Siberian Yupik (RUS; USA)
Chukchi (RUS)
Chulym Turk (RUS)
Copper Island Aleut (RUS)
Dagur (CHN)
Dolg'an (RUS)
Dukha (MNG)
East Cape Yupik (RUS)
Eastern Khanty (RUS)
Eastern Mansi (RUS)
Even (RUS)
Evenki (CHN; MNG; RUS)
Forest Enets (RUS)
Forest Nenets (RUS)
Forest Yukagir (RUS)
Inari Saami (FIN)
Itelmen (RUS)
Kamas (RUS)
Kamas Turk (RUS)
Kerek (RUS)
Ket (RUS)
Khakas (RUS)
Khamnigan Mongol (CHN; MNG; RUS)
Khövsgöl Uryangkhay (MNG)
Kildin Saami (RUS)
Kilen (CHN; RUS)
Kili (RUS)
Komi (RUS)
Koryak (RUS)
Manchu (CHN)
Nanay (CHN; RUS)
Negidal (RUS)
Nganasan (RUS)
Nivkh (RUS)
North Alaskan Inupiaq (USA)
North Saami (FIN; NOR; RUS; SWE)
Northern Altay (RUS)
Northern Khanty (RUS)
Northern Mansi (RUS)
Northern Selkup (RUS)
Old Sirenik (RUS)
Orok (RUS)
Permyak (RUS)
Seward Peninsula Inupiaq (CHN; MNG; RUS)
Shor (RUS)
Siberian Tatar (RUS)
Skolt Saami (FIN; NOR; RUS)
Southern Altay (RUS)
Southern Khanty (RUS)
Southern Mansi (RUS)
Southern Selkup (RUS)
Soyot (RUS)
Tazy (RUS)
Ter Saami (RUS)
Tofa (RUS)
Tundra Enets (RUS)
Tundra Nenets (RUS)
Tundra Yukagir (RUS)
Tuva (CHN; MNG; RUS)
Udege (RUS)
Udmurt (RUS)
Ulcha (RUS)
Western Mansi (RUS)
Yakut (RUS)
Yazva Komi (RUS)
Yug (RUS)
# The Peoples of the North in Russia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1959</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aleut</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolgan</td>
<td>1.058</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itelmen</td>
<td>3.837</td>
<td>1.109</td>
<td>2.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ket</td>
<td>1.046</td>
<td>1.019</td>
<td>1.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koryak</td>
<td>7.387</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9.200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mansi</td>
<td>5.468</td>
<td>6.287</td>
<td>8.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanay</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.026</td>
<td>12.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nganasan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>1.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negidal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nenets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23.007</td>
<td>35.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nivkh</td>
<td>3.717</td>
<td>4.700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orok</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oroch</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saami</td>
<td>1.682</td>
<td>1.792</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selkup</td>
<td>1355</td>
<td>3.768</td>
<td>3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofalar</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udeghe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>2.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulchi</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2055</td>
<td>3.200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khanti</td>
<td>12.983</td>
<td>19410</td>
<td>23.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuvan</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chukchi</td>
<td>12.364</td>
<td>11.727</td>
<td>15.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evenki</td>
<td>17.513</td>
<td>24.710</td>
<td>30.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even</td>
<td>2.224</td>
<td>9.121</td>
<td>17.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eskimo</td>
<td>1.251</td>
<td>1.118</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukagir</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>71532</td>
<td>125.945</td>
<td>184.500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1959</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>0,11%</td>
<td>0,1%</td>
<td>0,06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voices from Tundra and Taiga
## Atlas Information about Tundra Yukagir

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tundra Yukagir</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of the language</strong></td>
<td>Tundra Yukagir (en), youkaguire de la toundra (fr), Тундренный юкагирский (ru)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternate names</strong></td>
<td>Northern Yukagir, Wadul; Chuvan, Omok (extinct dialects), “Chuvantsy” (Russian plural ethnonym)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vitality</strong></td>
<td>Critically endangered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Number of speakers** | 150  
In 1987 Maslova estimate |
| **Location(s)** | Villages of Andryushkino and Kolymskoe in Lower Kolyma (Nizhnekolymskiy) County |
| **Country or area** | Russian Federation |
| **Corresponding ISO 639-3 code** | omk, xcv,ykg |
Comments on the website

Type of Comments:

- Correct or complete this record (names, vitality degree, location, ISO code, etc.)

- If possible, provide online or bibliographic references

- Share information on media or online resources (such as dictionaries, websites) for this language.

- Describe a recent or current safeguarding or revitalization project for this language.
Assessing Language Vitality and State of Endangerment

1) Intergenerational Language Transmission
2) Absolute Number of Speakers
3) Proportion of Speakers within the Total Population
4) Trends in Existing Language Domains
5) Response to New Domains and Media
6) Materials for Language Education and Literacy
Language questions
Census 2010 about

1-5. Personal data
6. Citizenship
7. Nationality
8. Education
9. Language use
Language questions
Census 2010

9 Владение языками

9.1 Владеете ли Вы русским языком?
- да □
- нет □

9.2 Какими иными языками Вы владеете?

9.3 Ваш родной язык

ЯЗЫК ЖЕСТОВ □
N.B. Vakhtin

Languages of the Northern Peoples in the XXth Century

Census data 1926 – 1989

Recent census data 2002 and 2010
## Census results for Yukagir

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>Mother tongue</th>
<th>Knowledge of Russian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population size</td>
<td>Own language</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1112</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1603</td>
<td>21.8% (350)</td>
<td>51.2% (821) Yakut 25.0% (401)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Schoolclass learning Koryak
Schoolclass learning Koryak
## Census results for Koryak

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>Mother tongue</th>
<th>Knowledge of Russian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population size</td>
<td>Own language</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>6287</td>
<td>90,5 %</td>
<td>8,9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>7367</td>
<td>81,6 %</td>
<td>17,8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>7879</td>
<td>69,0 %</td>
<td>30,6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>8942</td>
<td>52,4 %</td>
<td>46,8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7953</td>
<td>27,5% (2191)</td>
<td>71,5% (5684)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Census results for Nivkh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>Mother tongue</th>
<th>Knowledge of Russian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population size</td>
<td>Own language</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>3717</td>
<td>76,3 %</td>
<td>23,2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>4356</td>
<td>49,0 %</td>
<td>50,8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>4397</td>
<td>30,6 %</td>
<td>69,1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>4631</td>
<td>23,3 %</td>
<td>76,2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4652</td>
<td>8,5 % (395)</td>
<td>91,0 % (4232)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Languages of the Northern Peoples in the XXth Century

Census data 1926 – 2010

1926 Most people monolingual in own language

1937…1959…1989 less use of own language, most become bilingual or monolingual Russian

Growing population size

2010 Most people monolingual in Russian
Assessing Language Vitality and State of Endangerment

1) Intergenerational Language Transmission
2) Absolute Number of Speakers
3) Proportion of Speakers within the Total Population
4) Trends in Existing Language Domains
5) Response to New Domains and Media
6) Materials for Language Education and Literacy
1988 Research on Sound Reconstruction
Hokkaido University
Pilsudsky Recordings on Ainu
from Sakhalin

1990 First International Expedition
to Sakhalin

1994 Start of joint Projects with
St.Petersburg Sound archives
Ethnolinguistic Expeditions to
Sakhalin, Yakutia, Buryatia, Altai
Wax Phonograph Cylinder
The History of Sound Recording
The History of Sound Recording
The History of Sound Recording
The History of Sound Recording
Laserbeam technology, Japan, 1988
Sound Archives

• Important Sound Archives in Europe:
  Vienna, Berlin, Saint-Petersburg

• Collection in the Pushkin House
  in Saint-Petersburg:
  Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences

• Reconstruction of old sound recordings
St. Petersburg Phonogram Archive
Pushkinsky Dom
Institute of Russian Literature

Historical Collection
since 1909

6,500 wax cylinders
8,000 magnetic tapes
150,000 recorded items
500 hours of recorded sound
Field work data from many different parts of Russia

On Siberian languages:
Shternberg on Nivkh
Shirokogorov on Tungus, Mongolian
Jochelson on Aleut
Malov and Anochin on Ket
Steinitz on Khanti

Part of the UNESCO register
Memory of the World

Field notes found in the archive
Important collections
more than 6,000 wax cylinders

Zhirmunsky (1927-29):
   German dialects in Russia
Magid (1928-38):
   Yiddish in Byelorussia, Ukraina
Shternberg (1910):
   Nivkh and other Siberian languages
Our project proposal:

Bring various collections from archives together

- digital copies in acoustic data base to be used for further study and educational methods

- metadata to be produced from available fieldnotes and other material
Joint INTAS research projects

1995-97: Acoustic Databases and Language Change
1999-2001: Sound Archives on the WWW
2000-2002: Database on Balto-finnic and Russian Dialects in NW-Russia
NWO projects

1999-2002 Voices from the Shtetl
Yiddish in Russia
2002-2005 Voices from Tundra and Taiga
Siberian Languages.
Nivkh on Sakhalin
Supported by Sakhalin Energy
Projects supported by the Programme on Endangered Archives of the British Library

2006-2008
Safeguarding and preservation of sound materials for Sound Archives in Saint-Petersburg

2010-2013
Vanishing Voices from the Uralic World: Reconstruction of Historical Sound Recordings in Russia
Project on Voices from Tundra and Taiga

Catalogue of the Collection on the Northern Peoples in the Pushkinsky Dom
Individual publications of these sub-series address the following themes:

- The remembered past;
- Traditional ecological knowledge;
- Clothing & decorative arts;
- Ritual practice & world view;
- Human-environment relations as expressed in tales, songs and dance;
- Conferences, workshops, festivals.

Itelmen Language Classes in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski

Kulturstiftung Sibirien gemeinnützige GmbH
The Foundation for Siberian Cultures is a non-for-profit organization

Advisory council members

Tjeerd DeGraaf, Ljouwert / Leeuwarden » Info
Michael Dürr, Berlin » Info
Dmitri Funk, Moscow » Info
Erich Kasten, Fürstenberg/Havel » Info
David Koester, Fairbanks, Alaska » Info

Annual report | 2010 | 2011 |

Contact

Kulturstiftung Sibirien gGmbH
Director: Dr. Erich Kasten
Uferweg 4 • D-16798 Fürstenberg/Havel
Tel / Fax ++49.33093-60670
info@kulturstiftung-sibirien.de

Amtsgericht Neuruppin
HRA 8820 NP

Bank account

Mittelbrandenburgische Sparkasse Potsdam
BLZ 16050000 - Konto 3753005389
IBAN DE4260500003753005362 - SWIFT WELA DEI1PMB
Steuernr. 053/125/00444
Sustaining Indigenous Knowledge
Learning Tools and Community Initiatives for Preserving Endangered Languages and Local Cultural Heritage

Erich Kasten and Tjeerd de Graaf (eds.)

Exhibitions and Symposia

SEC Publications
Ethnolinguistic Fieldwork in Siberia and the Russian Far East

1990 Sakhalin
   Nivkh, Uilta, Ainu
1991-93 Altai Plautdietsch of Siberian Mennonites
1994 Yakutia
   Yukagir, Even, Chukchi, Yakut
2000, 2002 Sakhalin
   Nivkh, Uilta
2005 Buryat, Tungus
   Samoyedic
Japanese Expedition to Sakhalin 1990

Kyoko Murasaki
Robert Austerlitz
Robert Ramsey
Jiro Ikegami
Hiroshi Nakagawa
Tomomi Sato
Chuner Taksami
Galina Otaina
Sergei Beresnitski
Tjeerd de Graaf
Nicolaas Witsen
North and East Tartary (1692)

Historical data on the peoples and cultures of East Asia
In the summer of 2010, Pegasus Publishers in Amsterdam will publish the Russian translation of North and East Tartary (1709); the first comprehensive study of Siberia, Mongolia and Central Asia, written by the scholar and mayor of Amsterdam, Nicolaas Witsen (1641-1717).

А в 2010 году в амстердамском издательстве Pegasus выходит русский перевод знаменитой Северной и Восточной Тартарии Николааса Витсена (1641-1717), ученого и бургомистра Амстердама, автора первого подробного исследования Сибири, Монголии и Центральной Азии.
Map of Maarten Gerritszoon de Vries (1643)
Expeditie of of of Maarten Gerritszoon de Vries (1643)
Proliv Friza and Island of Urup Border areas of Japan and Russia in 1643
Japanese Expedition to Sakhalin 1990

Kyoko Murasaki
Robert Austerlitz
Robert Ramsey
Jiro Ikegami
Hiroshi Nakagawa
Tomomi Sato
Chuner Taksami
Galina Otaina
Sergei Beresnitski
Tjeerd de Graaf

80 hours of audio, 30 hours of video
Many photographs and fieldnotes
www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/endangered-languages/
Japanese Expedition to Sakhalin 1990
Workshop on new methods to preserve language and culture of the indigenous people of Sakhalin

Sponsors:
Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)
Sakhalin Energy Investment Co.Ltd.
The courses provided basic knowledge of phonetics and analysis of speech signals using the latest technical developments in the field.
The Sound Materials of the Nivkh Language series
by Hidetoshi Shiraishi and Galina Lok
Nivkh folktales with CD
Introduction of *Sound Materials of the Nivkh Language*

copies were handed to the participants and informants
Foundation for Siberian Cultures established in 2010.

Preservation of indigenous languages and the knowledge (especially ecological knowledge) expressed in them.

Some issues from the Foundation's program:
- Endangered Languages and Traditional Knowledge;

- Indigenous Worldviews, Mythologies and Landscapes, and their Significance for Cross-cultural Dialogue in the Arts;

- Historical Sources and their Contribution to Modern Discourse.

The series is subdivided into:
- Itelmen Language & Culture (ILC);
- Even Language & Culture (ELC);
- Koryak Language & Culture (KLC).

- www.kulturstiftung-sibirien.de
Individual publications of these sub-series address to the following themes:
- The remembered past;
- Traditional ecological knowledge;
- Clothing & decorative arts;
- Ritual practice & world view;
- Human-environment relations as expressed in tales, songs and dance;
- Conferences, workshops, festivals.

Itelmen Language Classes in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski
Köszönöm szépen a figyelmüket
Thank you for your attention

tdegraaf@fryske-akademy.nl
www.mercator-research.eu