

# Formation and development of the Mansi language research in Russia

Kosheliuk Natalia

*Ivannikov Institute for System Programming of the RAS, Moscow (Russia)<sup>1</sup>*

*ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5833-7971>*

*E-mail: NKoshelyuk@yandex.ru*

**Abstract.** Studies of the Mansi language in Russia were developed in the 1930s. Thanks to the activities of Soviet scientists - their active fieldwork to collect audio data from native speakers and subsequent analysis of the collected material, the alphabet, the first grammars and textbooks of the Mansi language were developed, and experimental research on the phonetics of this language was started.

**Keywords.** the Mansi language, field research, experimental phonetics, linguistic laboratories, 20 century.

The beginning of the study of the Mansi language in Russia was laid by Soviet scientists in the 30s of the 20 century. As a result of the study of the living speech of native speakers conducted by the staff of the Institute of the Peoples of the North (Leningrad), the Mansi alphabet was developed on a Cyrillic basis, the first grammar essays and the first textbooks were compiled (Figure 1). A special role in the devel-

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opment of domestic studies of the Mansi language belongs to Valeriy Chernetsov and Alexey Balandin.

In 1936, Valeriy Chernetsov (Figure 2) published a Vogul-Russian dictionary, including a grammatical essay of the Mansi language (Chernetsov, Chernetsova 1936); edited by Grigoriy Prokofiev in 1937, a collective monograph "Languages and Writing of the peoples of the North" (Languages and Writing 1937) was published, where a full-fledged study of the Mansi language by Chernetsov with a detailed examination of writing, phonetics, morphology, syntax and vocabulary.

In the post-war period, the study of the Mansi language was continued by Alexey Balandin and Matrena Vakhrusheva. Balandin published several textbooks (Balandin 1959; 1960), and later, in collaboration with Vakhrusheva, he also developed ABC books and the first textbooks (Balandin, Vakhrusheva 1957).



*Fig. 1. Aborigines of Siberia - Mansi.*

*Photo by Wikipedia:*

*<https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%B8>  
(accessed on January 6, 2022)*

In the second half of the 20 century, the first candidates of sciences began to appear who defended their dissertation research on the Mansi theme: linguist Antonina Kartina studied nominal word formation in the modern Mansi language (Kartina 1955), Evdokia Kuzakova defended her dissertation on the Konda dialect "South Mansi (Kondinsky) dialect" (Kuzakova 1963), Evdokia Rombandeeva was awarded the degree of Candidate of Sciences for the study of causative verbs in the Mansi language (Rombandeeva 1964), and in 1998 she defended her doctoral dissertation on "The structure of the modern Mansi (Vogul) language" (Rombandeeva 1998).



*Fig. 2. V. N. Chernetsov's expedition to Mansi*

*Photo by Ugra-News.ru:  
<https://ugra-news.ru/article/date/93899/>  
(accessed on January 6, 2022)*

In 1965, Matrena Vakhrusheva defended her dissertation research on the formation of complex words of the Mansi language (Vakhrusheva 1965). A. I. Saynakhova was awarded the degree of Candidate of Sciences for the study of service words in the Mansi language (Saynakhova 1966), D. V. Gerasimova defended her dissertation on "Vocabulary related to hunting and fishing in the Mansi language" (Gerasimova 1988). N. A. Lyskova was engaged in the study of the syntax of the Mansi language (Lyskova 1988; 1998).

It is necessary to mention other works of domestic researchers: a number of publications by Anastasia Saynakhova devoted to the study of postpositions in Mansi (Saynakhova, Iigushev 2012; Saynakhova 2012), studies of the Tavdinsky (southern) dialect by Tatiana Frank-Kamenetskaya (Frank-Kamenetskaya 1964; 1965), a comprehen-

sive study of the Mansi language by Evdokia Rombandeeva (Rombandeeva 1964; 1973; 1979; 1982, etc.).

An important milestone in the study of the Mansi language was the beginning of an experimental study of phonetics by Soviet linguists. In her monograph "Modern Mansi language", Evdokia Rombandeeva says that already since the 60-70s of the XX century, in different years, under the leadership of Margarita Matusevich and Vladimir Nadelyaev, unique phonetic experiments using radiography were conducted (Rombandeeva 2017: 15).

In the XX century, a rich Mansi lexical material was also collected, which was reflected in the dictionaries of Evdokia Rombandeeva: "Russian-Mansi dictionary" (Rombandeeva 1954; 2005), "Mansi-Russian Dictionary with lexical parallels from the South Mansi (Kondinsky) dialect" by Alexey Balandin and Matrena Vakhrusheva (Russian-Mansi Thematic Dictionary), "Russian-Mansi-Komi thematic dictionary" (Afanasyeva, Igushev 2011), etc.

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