Editorial article

"Karelian texte" in digital space

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The use of computer technologies and digital media in the humanities is a trend of the last two decades. This approach has become a field of scientific enquiry for researchers of the Karelian language, history and culture. On the one hand, archives are being digitised, databases and language corpora are being created, which provides wide access to vast amounts of information, and on the other hand, humanities researchers are increasingly using new research tools and technologies in their quest.

The articles published in the special issue, written by historians and philologists from the Institute of Linguistics, Literature, and History of the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as by our colleagues from other institutions, present practical experience in working with databases, text corpora, and other information arrays. 'Karelian text' in this case is both a text in the Karelian language and a narrative about Karelia, regardless of the place of its creation. The article by Alexandra P. Rodionova and Natalia A. Pellinen discusses an original way of enriching the Baltic-Finnish Speech Corpus by organising a marathon 'Listening to the Native Speech' aimed at collecting dialect materials by residents of Karelia.

Olga P. Ilyukha provided an overview of the 'Electronic Collection of Textbooks in the Languages of the Peoples of Karelia' and showed its information potential and the directions of using this resource by researchers of school textbook history. K.M. Bogacheva shares her experience of analysing the periodical press of Soviet Karelia when studying the history of twinning.

A coherent completion to the collection of Karelian text studies is the research of the 'National Archive of the Republic of Karelia', presented by E.V. Evseeva. The work is based on archival documents that recreate the historical context of language policy and the ideology of language formation in Karelia during the Civil War and the establishment of Karelian autonomy. The author specifies well-known collisions and reveals new details of the events that influenced the fate of the Karelian and Finnish languages in Soviet Karelia.

Article by D.S. Revyakina is devoted to describing the situation of the Karelian language in Tver Karelia. Based on the results of field research conducted in the summer of 2023, the author explores the vitality level of the Karelian language in the Likhoslavl and Spirovsky districts of the Tver region through the prism of loyalty types to the Karelian language by its native speakers. The Karelians resettled in the Tver region after the signing of the Russian-Swedish Treaty of Stolbovo in 1617, which resulted in a part of the Karelian borderlands being transferred to the Swedish Crown. The sociolinguistic configuration and dynamics of the Karelian language outside the territory of the Republic of Karelia have their own specifics, but there are also common trends for both territories, which are generally characteristic of language shift situations. In this sense, the article by D.S. Revyakina provides an insight into the real state of affairs, practices and ideologies in the use, representations of the Karelian language and the attitude towards it by its native speakers.

Thus, the articles draw the reader's attention to texts of various genres contained in textbooks, mass media, archival documents, and "speech samples" They focus on the political-ideological and social contexts of their creation and point to new possibilities for working with both the texts and their contexts, enabled by the use of digital products and technologies.

Bionote:

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