

***CROSSLINGUISTICS
AND LINGUISTIC CROSSINGS
IN NORTHEAST ASIA***

**Papers on the Languages of Sakhalin
and Adjacent Regions**



STUDIA ORIENTALIA 117

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and Adjacent Regions**

EDITED BY

EKATERINA GRUZDEVA & JUHA JANHUNEN



Helsinki 2016

**Crosslinguistics and Linguistic Crossings in Northeast Asia:
Papers on the Languages of Sakhalin and Adjacent Regions
Edited by Ekaterina Gruzdeva & Juha Janhunen**

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PREFACE

*Светлой памяти Зои Львовны Роник
посвящается*

This volume is a result of activities carried out by the Helsinki Area and Language Studies Initiative (HALS), a research community formed at the University of Helsinki in 2012 after the successful evaluation of its predecessor, which bore the name Linguistic Diversity: Historical, Functional and Typological Aspects (LDHFTA). From a longer perspective, HALS continues the Finnish tradition of ethnolinguistics, which since the early 19th century has been studying the spoken languages and dialects of indigenous ethnic groups in their overall social, spatial, and temporal contexts, an approach that in later traditions of scholarship is known as linguistic anthropology, and to which the currently fashionable field of ecolinguistics, or language ecology, also adheres.

During the years 2013–2016 HALS has carried out four separate linguistic field excursions to different parts of the world, the second of which, in August, 2014, targeted the North Pacific islands of Sakhalin and Hokkaido, and has provided both the research focus and much of the data for the papers comprising this current volume. The itinerary saw the team travel from Helsinki, first to Wakkanai in northernmost Japan, via Tokyo and Sapporo, from where we crossed by ferry to the Russian port of Korsakov and on to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. We subsequently travelled northwards, first by train to Nogliki, and by road to Okha and Nekrasovka. Returning to Hokkaido, we further visited Asahikawa, Abashiri, Sapporo, and Nibutani.

In addition to the editors of this volume, the group included two other teacher members, Jouko Lindstedt and Janne Saarikivi, as well as eleven graduate and postgraduate students: Arttu Anttonen, Eeva-Maria Heinonen, Andrew Logie, Juha Luukkonen, Merja Pikkarainen, Merja Salo, Erika Sandman, Saana Santalahti, Ksenia Shagal, Suvi Valsta, and Turo Ylinen. Another teacher member, Riikka Länsisalmi, joined the group on Hokkaido.¹

¹ For more on HALS and LDHFTA, see www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/hals, where also a detailed schedule of the HALS excursion to Sakhalin and Hokkaido may be found. A travel report was published in Russian by the editors of the present volume as: Финская этнолингвистическая экспедиция на Сахалин и Хоккайдо: история с продолжением, in: *Вестник Сахалинского музея* 22: 127–136, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk 2015.

The field trip was both preceded and followed by international academic events at the University of Helsinki. The first preparative workshop took place on 19 May 2014, under the name *Insular Worlds: The Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Sakhalin and Hokkaido* (HALS Workshop 3), while the concluding seminar was organized on 28–29 November 2014, under the name *Crosslinguistics and Linguistic Crossings in Northeast Asia* (HALS Field Seminar 2), which has also been chosen as the main title of this present volume. Both of these events were co-organized by the Tokyo-based National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), which, together with Hokkaido University, also organized a follow-up meeting in Sapporo on 20–22 August 2015, under the name *Northeast Asia and the North Pacific as a Linguistic Area*.

On the personal level, the principal partners of the HALS community on the Japanese side were Anna Bugaeva and John Whitman from NINJAL, both of whom also joined the HALS excursion on Sakhalin, as well as Itsuji Tangiku and Toshiro Tsumagari from Hokkaido University and Hidetoshi Shiraishi from Sapporo Gakuin University. In addition, the events in Helsinki were attended by seven participants from Japan: Yukari Nagayama and Tomomi Sato from Hokkaido University, Hiroshi Nakagawa from Chiba University, Shinjiro Kazama from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, as well as Yoshiyuki Asahi and Iku Nagasaki from NINJAL. There were also three participants from other countries: Bert Botma from Leiden University (Netherlands), Alfred F. Majewicz from Poznań University (Poland), and Alexandr Pevnov from the Institute for Linguistic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg (Russia).

Most of the above-mentioned participants in the HALS excursion and/or the accompanying academic events have contributed a paper to the present volume. One paper is a collective summary of the student work on Sakhalin (completed by Ekaterina Gruzdeva), while two doctoral students (Andrew Logie and Ksenia Shagal) have contributed independent papers. To these, the editors added two thematically related papers, one by Nadezhda Mamontova from the University of Helsinki and the other by Alexander Vovin from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (Paris). All papers were refereed and edited into a uniform format, with one paper (by Alexandr Pevnov) having been translated by the editors from the Russian original.

Geographically, the papers in this volume cover the whole North Pacific Rim of Northeast Asia from Japan up to Kamchatka, Chukotka, the Bering Strait, and Alaska, though in most papers there is a more narrow focus on Sakhalin and adjacent regions, especially Hokkaido and the Amur basin. The languages and language families discussed include: Mongolic, Tungusic, Eskaleutic (Eskimo-Aleut), and Kamchukotic (Chukchee-Kamchadal), as well as Ainu

(Ainuic), Ghilyak or Nivkh (Amuric), and Yukaghir (Kolymic). Most of these involve insufficiently documented, rapidly disappearing and, hence, seriously endangered indigenous languages, the documentation of which is an urgent task. Endangerment affects today also Korean and Japanese, as spoken on Sakhalin as a trace of the former Japanese rule (1905–1945) over the southern part of the island (then known as Karafuto).

Thematically, this volume is arranged into three sections, though it has to be noted that the boundaries between the sections are not strict. The papers in the first section deal with diachronic and areal aspects of the languages of the target region, with topics ranging from genetic taxonomy and reconstruction to areal similarities and contrasts. The papers in the second section deal more with synchronic typology and grammatical analysis, with a particular focus on nominalization, but also on features such as incorporation and modality. Finally, the papers in the third section address the ethnopolitical and sociolinguistic situation of the endangered speech communities, with a focus on the phenomenon of language shift, but also on ethnic and linguistic identity issues.

In this connection it has to be mentioned that the HALS excursion to Sakhalin and Hokkaido, whose scholarly result the present volume represents, has also had practical consequences, in that a project working towards the revitalization of the Nivkh language has since been initiated in collaboration with the Nekrasovka-based cultural organization *Kykhkykh* ‘Swan’, and receiving financial support from international oil company Exxon Neftegaz Ltd., active on Sakhalin. In the context of this new project a smaller team of HALS members and other specialists on language revitalization have already visited Sakhalin several further times, organizing practical seminars and courses for different types of audiences with the aim of raising the status and increasing the domains of the Nivkh language at the local level. In this way, it is hoped that HALS will ultimately pay back some of the help and hospitality it received from the local communities on Sakhalin.²

As organizers of the HALS excursion to Sakhalin and Hokkaido, we thank all those communities and organizations that offered us help and cooperation, as well as all those local consultants who supplied us linguistic and other data. Apart from Hokkaido University and Sapporo Gakuin University in Sapporo, we wish to mention the museums, archives, and libraries in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Nogliki, Okha, and Abashiri. As editors, we thank all the authors, whose contributions

² For more on the Nivkh language revitalization project, see Ekaterina Gruzdeva & Juha Janhunen: *Сохранение и возрождение языков коренных народов Сахалина*, raipon.info/info/actual/1294 (20 July 2015), and *Первые итоги и перспективы проекта по возрождению нивхского языка*, kykhkykh.org/1133 (20 Jan. 2016).

have made this publication possible. We also thank the Finnish Oriental Society for accepting this volume in its prestigious series *Studia Orientalia*. Particular thanks are due to the series editor Lotta Aunio, also a HALS member, who has designed the final layout of the texts. We are also grateful to Andrew Logie, who has kindly offered us consultation on stylistic issues.

Finally, we dedicate this volume to the memory of Zoya Lvovna Ronik (1950–2016), a Nivkh ethnic activist and resident of Nekrasovka, whose personal involvement was essential for the successful completion of the HALS excursion to Sakhalin. Her enthusiasm was instrumental in initiating the subsequent language revitalization project.

Helsinki, June 2016

Ekaterina Gruzdeva

Juha Janhunen