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FORMATION OF THE BASICS OF SAKHA TERMINOLOGICAL VOCABULARY (1920–1940 s)

Abstract. From the beginning of the 20 s to the second half of the 30 s a lot of work was done to develop the theoretical foundations, principles for creating Sakha terms, and most importantly, a large number of terms were created in the field of various knowledge, primarily socio-political and in all subjects of secondary school. As linguists note, this was achieved relatively quickly because terminology construction leaders came out from among the Yakut intellectuals, who correctly understood the enormous importance of this work, undertook it themselves and led others.

Keywords: Yakut language, terminology, terminological vocabulary, A. E. Kulakovsky, S. A. Novgorodov, P. A. Oyunsky.

The development of the Yakut terminology system initially had two main ways of forming terminological vocabulary: the use of internal resources of the language and borrowing terms from other languages, in particular, the Russian language.

The massive integration of Russianisms and internationalisms into the vocabulary of the Yakut language created the issue of term-borrowing from the Russian language which was widely discussed. Aspects of the entry of Russian vocabulary into the Yakut language in the 1920 s, the lexical-semantic and functional characteristics of borrowed words of that time are investigated in the work of P. A. Sleptsov [8, P. 254].

According to the linguists of the Yakut language, this stage in the formation of terminology is characterized by “the desire for the optimal establishment and acquisition of the necessary terms designed to express concepts and phenomena inherent in the cultural and historical situation that developed in the post-revolutionary period” [1, P. 9].

Linguistic works of A. E. Kulakovsky looked into many important issues of the development of

the Yakut literary language, including the issue of formation, development of terminology. The most complete systemic idea of the significance of the linguistic works of A. E. Kulakovsky in the implementation of the language policy of the 1920 s in Yakutia was shown by N. A. Sivtseva in her dissertation “A. E. Kulakovsky and the problems of language policy of the 1920 s in Yakutia”. She, on the basis of linguistic and concrete historical approaches, analyzed the works of A. E. Kulakovsky, examined his lexicographic research, identified the characteristic aspects of his linguistic research [6, p. 9–11].

One of the significant works of A. E. Kulakovsky “Russian words adopted and integrated by the Yakuts (except for proper names and titles)” is a dictionary consisting of 2396 words borrowed from the Russian language in pre-revolutionary times. The dictionary is accompanied by the rules by which borrowed words are transcribed according to the phonetic laws of the Yakut language, as well as the alphabet developed by A. E. Kulakovsky based on the Cyrillic alphabet, describes the pronunciation of Yakut

sounds. As noted by prof. P. A. Sleptsov, “this work is the most complete collection of borrowed words used in the pre-revolutionary colloquial Yakut language” [7, P. 76].

In this dictionary, most of the vocabulary is made up of nouns, and it also contains adjectives, verbs, adverbs and interjections. The dictionary often contains derivative nouns with affixes *-чыт*, *-һыт*, *-сык*, *-чык*, *-һык*, which in the past have been traditionally used to designate occupations and trades, such as *болкуобунньук* ‘colonel’, *болуотунньук* ‘carpenter’, *бэдэрээччит* ‘contractor’, *дакылааччыт* ‘speaker’, *сэбиэтинньик* ‘advisor’, *чонуобунньук* ‘public servant’. This model of term formation, as E. I. Okoneshnikov writes, may have a tendency toward universalization in the long term [5, P. 110].

The first Yakut linguist scientist and initiator of mass writing literacy S. A. Novgorodov, as far back as 1919, put forward in his report a provision according to which “the possibility of developing scientific knowledge in the language of a given tribe entirely depends on the internal merits of this language and only partly on external circumstances”. However, S. A. Novgorodov as A. E. Kulakovsky considered the borrowed terminology absolutely inevitable “approaching the Yakut language from this point of view, you can recognize it as quite proper and suitable. It goes without saying that the terminology will have to be borrowed. In the rest, the language of the Yakuts is quite flexible, clear, accurate and expressive” [3, P. 42].

In his professional activities, S. A. Novgorodov proved himself as a true explorer and thoughtful philologist; this is, above all, due to the desire to creatively use the internal resources of the language itself, to reveal the nuances and shades of a living word. In his textbook, rich in subject matter and content, he quite consciously and purposefully worked on the activation of the passive vocabulary. In short stories about the origin of the Yakut people, the resettlement of the Yakuts, military equipment of an ancient Yakut and others, the author was able to interpret the meaning of many archaisms and pas-

sive terminological vocabulary such as *үһүү*, *батас*, *батыһа*, *болот*, *кураахтаах саа*, *дуулаҕа*, *барымта*, *лаппыһа*, *хотохоон*, *кылыс*, *кустук ох*, *саадах*, etc.

In developing the principles for creating terms from the language’s own resources, the activity of G. V. Baishev (also known as Altan Saryn) is historically important. He was a supporter of a new method, which was used in term-creation in the late 1920s. In an effort to somehow prevent the Yakut language vocabulary from unjustified, excessive clogging with foreign terms, he once advocated the creation of terminology using the internal capabilities of his native language and, pursuing such a goal, proposed the following principles of term creation: 1) the revival and use of archaisms like *табык* ‘chicken’, *кудук* ‘well’, *хой* ‘ram’, *тэбиэн* ‘camel’; 2) assignment to words that, in his opinion, have unclear semantics, of clear terminated meanings, for example: *дьылҕа* ‘fate’, *номох* ‘novelet’, *хоһоон* ‘poem’, *кут* ‘soul’; 3) the creation of terms due to artificial affixes, which are given a conditional abstract meaning, for example, with the help of *-наат*: *дойдунаат* ‘fraternity’, *киһинээт* ‘humanity’, *ийэнээт* ‘motherhood’; 4) the formation of terms by the word-forming means of the language, while making extensive use of unproductive and dead affixes like *-(ы)к*: *көрүк* ‘picture’, *-лаҕа көрүлгэ* ‘sight’, *ытылҕа* ‘propeller’, etc.

P. A. Oyunsky, as a linguistic scientist, well understood that terminology is a property of the spheres of intellectually organized activities of people; its formation is a conscious matter, not a spontaneous one. “Term-spelling dictionary” by P. A. Oyunsky introduced the following in the formation of terms: 1) The form of nouns in certain conditions is lexicalized and acquires a terminological function: *circumjacent* ‘төгүрүмтэтэ’, *vegetation* ‘үүнээйитэ’, *decisiveness* ‘сорунуулааҕа’; 2) The Dictionary has neologism terms that are formed as a result of lexical and semantic shifts of their meanings, such as *fuel* ‘убатык’, *volume* ‘сабардам’, *split* ‘хайдьыһы’, *body* ‘эттик’; 3) The multivariate methods of term formation recorded in the Dictionary can be divided

into two groups: a) original synonymous terms like *palm* 'ытыс, баппабай', *power* 'күүс, кыах'; б) along with Russian borrowing, the Yakut equivalent such as *метод* (*method*) 'миэтэт, ньыма', *секретарь* (*secretary*) 'сэкэритээр, суруксут'; 4) showed an example of affix terminology such as *nation* 'тутуунньу', *art* 'урамный', *image* 'дьүһүмэр', *level* 'таһым', etc; 5) A large number of terminological phrases consisting of complex and composite elements are presented in the Dictionary: *livestock* 'сүөһү иитиитэ', *gold* 'кыһыл көмүс', *pupil* (*of the eye*) 'харах иччитэ', *cross-bill* 'ымыы чыгычааҕа', *harrier* 'хаар эбэ' etc.

Therefore, prominent figures in the language construction of the Yakut ASSR of the 1920–1940 s, S. A. Novgorodov, A. E. Kulakovsky, G. V. Baishev (Altan Saryn) and P. A. Oyunsky were among the first in Russian terminography to take part in substantiating the theory and practice of creating terminological dictionaries in national languages. It is their achievement that the terminology of the Sakha language arose again in many branches of knowledge

and developed under the direct influence of the Russian language.

It can be noted that during this period a lot of attention was paid to both the development of the principles of terminology and the creation of terms from the resources of the language. The principles developed during this period with some changes and additions formed the basis of all terminological methods. Russian words were borrowed, in general, in one specific meaning, basically denoting realities, concepts that were absent in the Yakut language itself. Therefore, a lot of borrowed words in a certain sense can be considered terminological. Some borrowed words with abstract meaning denote concepts that are well known to the Yakuts and have their own Yakut equivalents. However, such borrowings nevertheless have a strong place in the lexical system of the language, since their Yakut synonyms had insufficiently accurate, differentiated meanings, were contextually conditioned and polysemantic, and Russian borrowings were perceived precisely as unambiguous terms.

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