



Data from the Dictionaries of Simeon Chekalov  
(1783) and Peter Simon Pallas (1784-1785) as a  
Way of Dating Changes in the Mansi Language

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**Data from the dictionaries of Simeon Chekalov (1783) and Peter  
Simon Pallas (1784-1785) as a way of dating changes in the Mansi  
language<sup>1</sup>**

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**Abstract.** The article presents an analysis of four archival Mansi sources of the second half of the XVIII century, compiled by two independent authors in the same geographical area and practically in the same time period: the first of them is the Solikamsk archpriest – Simeon Cherkalov, the second is a German scientist-encyclopedist – Peter Simon Pallas. A comparative study of the data of these dictionaries allows us to find out how they correspond to each other and what the common innovative features identified in them can tell linguists.

**Keywords.** Mansi dialects, archival data, Cherkalov, Pallas, XVIII century.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

As shown by the analysis of the data of the Solikamsk dictionary on dialect-differentiating features of L. Honti [Honti 1988] and its

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comparison with the data of the Nizhnelozvinsky dialect<sup>2</sup>, its alleged belonging to the Western dialect of the Mansi language is not confirmed. This is evidenced by the implementation of Proto-Mansi  $\acute{e} > \acute{e}/\acute{s}$ ,  $*\acute{s} > \acute{s}$ ,  $*\bar{i} > e$ ,  $a$  in the dictionary Simeon Cherkalov is found in all dialect groups; the reflex  $o$  of Proto-Mansi  $*\bar{a}$  corresponds to eastern, western and northern dialects;  $*k > k$  – to southern, eastern, western, and  $*y > y$  – to eastern and western. In light of this, it became interesting for us to turn to the Permian Mansi dictionaries recorded by P. S. Pallas in the XVIII century and compare their data with the material of Solikamsk dictionary.

It should be noted that today Cherkalov's Solikamsk dictionary and Pallas's Perm dictionaries, written by Nikita Ovchinnikov, are the only sources on Western dialects of the XVIII century. The latter were collected in 1784-1785 in Perm province: in Kungursky, Cherdynsky, Verkhoturksky counties (Pic. 21). But only in 2020 they were fully introduced into scientific circulation (for more details, see [Normanskaya 2020]). According to the author, an analysis of the dialects of these regions by dialect-differentiating features [Gulya 1958] and [Honti 1982] showed that "their reflexion is not uniform and corresponds not to western, but mainly to southern dialects, which indicates their length in the XVIII century almost 300 km to the west, to the Sverdlovsk region" [Normanskaya 2020: 79]. We plan to compare the implementation of the Proto-Mansi vowels and consonants of the Solikamsk dictionary with the data of the Perm dialects presented in the article [Normanskaya 2020], and to trace how [Cherkalov 1783] differs from them.

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<sup>2</sup> See preprint No 8823: <https://easychair.org/publications/preprint/LPDC>.

## 2 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DICTIONARIES

### Proto-Mansi \**ā*

Tab. 1. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \**ā* in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Normanskaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
* <i>ā</i>	* <i>ā̃</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>o, a, oa</i>	<i>o, a</i>

1) solik. *Кóтоль* ‘Sun’ [Cherkalov 1783: 26], cherdyn. *Комлантъ*, *Комаль* ‘Light’, kungur. *Косталь* ‘Sun’, *Каталь* ‘Day’, verkhotur. *Хомаль* ‘Day’ < Proto-Mansi \**kātəl* [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Торомъ* ‘God’ [Cherkalov 1783: 2], cherdyn. *Торомъ* ‘God’, kungur. *Таромъ* ‘God’, verkhotur. *Тармъ* ‘God’ < Proto-Mansi \**tārəm* [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Вóтъ* ‘Wind’ [Cherkalov 1783: 3], cherdyn. *Уадъ*<sup>3</sup> ‘Wind’, kungur. *Воати* ‘Wind’, *Ваталинь* ‘Whirl’, verkhotur. *Вотъ* ‘Wind’ < Proto Mansi \**wāta* [Honti 1982].

As you can see, Proto Mansi \**ā* in the Solikamsk dictionary coincides with the realization of this vowel for all Perm dictionaries. At the same time, the transformation of \**ā* > *o* for the eastern, western and northern Mansi groups cannot be called innovative, since "quite often Proto Mansi \**ā* is a reflex of Proto Ural \**o*, \**u* and allows us to suggest

<sup>3</sup> According to Yu. V. Normanskaya, "the only exception is cherdyn. Уадъ 'wind', where a special reflexion is probably associated with the transition \**w* > *y* and the diphthongoid character of the resulting combination of *ua*" [Normanskaya 2020: 74].

that it is more correct to reconstruct for this series of correspondences of Proto Mansi \*o" [Normanskaya 2020: 74].

### Proto Mansi \*j̄

Tab. 2. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*j̄ in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Norman- skaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*j̄	*a	e,(a) <sup>4</sup>	a, ы	a, e	a, e, o

1) solik. *É* ‘River’ [Cherkalov 1783: 22], kungur. *Гей* ‘River’, verkhotur. *E* ‘River’ < Proto Mansi \*j̄ [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Лэльколь* ‘Leg’ [Cherkalov 1783: 17], cherdyn. *Лыль* ‘Leg’, kungur. *Лаль* ‘Leg’, verkhotur. *Лаль* ‘Leg’ < Proto Mansi \*lj̄yla [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Тóрмь сёлы* ‘Lightning’ [Черкалов 1783: 15], cherdyn. *Салы* ‘Lightning’, kungur. *Салои* ‘Lightning’, verkhotur. *Сальс* ‘Lightning’ < Proto Mansi \*sj̄l- [Honti 1982].

The reflexes *e*, (*a*) in the dictionary of archpriest Simeon Cherkalov, as a reflection of the Proto Mansi \*j̄, coincide with a similar reflexion in the Kungur, Verkhotursky and Cherdyn sources, but the only recorded case of the appearance of *a* (see footnote) and the predominant number of lexemes reflecting the transition \*j̄ > *e* in [Cherkalov 1783] indicates for proximity to Western dialects.

<sup>4</sup> Reflex *a* of the Proto Mansi \*j̄ is added to the table in accordance with the results obtained in the author's preprint EasyChair No. 8823 (see solik. *Ляманть* ‘Bird cherry’).

### Proto Mansi \*-y

Tab. 3. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*-y in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Normanskaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*-y	o, y	o, y	o	o	o

#### In auslaut:

1) solik. *Ены* 'Big' [Cherkalov 1783: 2], cherdyn. *Яныбаишкъ* 'Power', *Юнынкъ* 'Big', kungur. *Инна* 'Big', verkhotur. *Юнынкъ* 'Big' < Proto Mansi \**jänəy* (~ -ä) [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Тогъ* 'Bough' [Cherkalov 1783: 27], cherdyn. *Толь* 'Bough', kungur. *Тыль* 'Bough', verkhotur. *То* 'Bough' < Proto Mansi \**tay* (~ -a) [Honti 1982].

According to the examples, the implementation of Proto Mansi \*-y in [Cherkalov 1783] correlates with all Permian dictionaries of P. S. Pallas. Apparently, the fallout of \*-y was typical for this region.

## Proto Mansi \*č

Tab. 4. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*č in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Normanskaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*č	*č	č/s <sup>5</sup>	č/s <sup>6</sup>	ś	č

1) solik. *Вочахъ* ‘Dirt’ [Cherkalov 1783: 6], cherdyn. *Ошылты* ‘Dirt’, verkhotur. *Вочагъ* ‘Dirt’ < Proto Mansi \*wačək [Honti 1982].

The data of the Cherkalov dictionary reflect the preservation of the archaic realization of the Proto Mansi consonant (\*č > č) and the presence of innovative development (\*č > ś). Such a phenomenon is not recorded in any of the Pallas dictionaries, but the preservation of the Proto Mansi \*č and innovative ś is presented in the materials of the Cherdyn dictionary; we see the archaic reflex in the Verkhotur dialect, and the innovative ś in Kungur.

<sup>5</sup> The reflex ś of the Proto Mansi \*č was added to the table in accordance with the results obtained in the author's preprint No. 8823: <https://easychair.org/publications/preprint/LPDC>;

<sup>6</sup> The article [Normanskaya 2020] presents a larger number of examples with this reflexion: in this analysis, we give only those examples in which there was a correspondence with the lexemes of the dictionary [Cherkalov 1783], but in order to avoid distorting the results of data comparison, we give all the reflexes of the Proto Mansi phonemes for Perm dictionaries.

### Proto Mansi \*k|\_V(back)

Tab 5. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*k|\_Vb. in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Normanskaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*k _Vb.	k	k	k	k	*k _Vb.

1) solik. *Кѹль* ‘Fish’ [Cherkalov 1783: 23], cherdyn. *Куль* ‘Fish’, kungur. *Коль* ‘Fish’, verkhotur. *Кволь* ‘Fish’ < Proto Mansi \*kūl [Honti 1982] < Proto Ural \*kala;

2) solik. *Кóмель* ‘Day’ [Cherkalov 1783: 26], cherdyn. *Комаль* ‘Sun, day’, kungur. *Камаль* ‘Sun’, verkhotur. *Комаль* ‘Sun, day’, *Кóтоль* ‘Sun’ < Proto Mansi \*kātəl (~ -a) [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Кѹрмь таль* ‘Triennial’ [Cherkalov 1783: 28], cherdyn. *Урумь*<sup>7</sup> ‘three’, kungur. *Коромь* ‘three’, verkhotur. *Кормь* ‘three’ < Proto Mansi \*kūrəm [Honti 1982];

As can be seen from the examples, the data of the Solikamsk dictionary correspond to all Perm dialects and are an archaic feature.

<sup>7</sup> The loss of a consonant in the position of the beginning of the word remains unclear.



## Proto Mansi \*š

Tab 6. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*š in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto Mansi [Normanskaya 2015]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*š	š	š	š	š	*š

1) solik. *Ўшъ* ‘Town’ [Cherkalov 1783: 5], cherdyn. *Ушъ* ‘Town’ < Proto Mansi \*šša [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Шшъ* ‘Back’ [Cherkalov 1783: 26], cherdyn. *Шшъ* ‘Back’, kungur. *Шшъ* ‘Back’, kungur. *Шшъ* ‘Back’ < Proto Mansi \*šiš (~ - ä) [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Шшъ* ‘Heart’ [Cherkalov 1783: 25], cherdyn. *Шшъ* ‘Heart’, kungur. *Шшъ* ‘Heart’, verkhotur. *Шшъ* ‘Heart’ < Proto Mansi \*šim (~ - ä) [Honti 1982];

The implementation of this Proto Mansi consonant in the dictionary [Cherkalov 1783] corresponds to all Perm dialects and is an archaic feature.

**Additional diagnostic features:**

**Proto Mansi \*u**

*Tab 7. Dialect-differentiating reflexes of Mansi dialects for \*e.*

Southern	Eastern	Western	Northern
<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>

*Tab 8. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme \*u in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.*

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Solik. [Cherka- lov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhotur. [Pallas]
*u	<i>o, y</i>	<i>o, y</i>	<i>o, y</i>	<i>o, y</i>

1) solik. *Кўль* ‘Fish’ [Cherkalov 1783: 23], cherdyn. *Куль* ‘Fish’, kungur. *Коль* ‘Fish’, verkhotur. *Кволь* ‘Fish’ < Proto Mansi \**kūl* [Honti 1982] < Proto Ural \**kala*;

2) solik. *Лушимъ* ‘Bone’ [Cherkalov 1783: 12], cherdyn. *Лушынъ* ‘Bone’, kungur. *Ломемъ* ‘Bone’, verkhotur. *Лушашъ* ‘Bone’ < Proto Mansi \**lūw* [Honti 1982] < Proto Ural \**luwe*;

3) solik. *Помъ* ‘Grass’ [Cherkalov 1783: 28], cherdyn. *Помъ* ‘Grass’, kungur. *Бумъ* ‘Grass’, verkhotur. *Помъ* ‘Grass’ < ПМанс. \**puma* [Honti 1982].

As suggested in [Normanskay 2020: 78], "the transformation of Proto Mansi \**u* > *o* is an innovative Southern Mansi Tavda trait, repre-

senting the beginning of this process in the Permian Mansi records of the XVIII century". In the dictionary of Cherkalov we see a similar phenomenon. At the same time, according to the statistics of the occurrence of such reflexation, the data of the Solikamsk monument coincide more with Cherdynsky dialect – 3 cases of preservation of the Proto Mansi *\*u* ('fish', 'bone') and one example for the transformation *\*u* > *o*, and in Kungursky, for most lexemes, the transformation of the Proto Mansi vowel is recorded, while as in the dictionary of Cherkalov we see *u* ('fish', 'bone') and vice versa *o* – for the word 'grass'.

### Proto Mansi *\*e* (*\*i* по [Honti 1982])

Tab 9. Dialect-differentiating reflexes of Mansi dialects for *\*e*.

Southern	Eastern	Western	Northern
<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>e</i>

Tab 10. Reflexes of the Proto-Mansi phoneme *\*e* in the first dictionaries of the XVIII century.

Proto Mansi [Honti 1982]	Solik. [Cherkalov 1783]	Cherdyn. [Pallas]	Kungur. [Pallas]	Verkhorur. [Pallas]
<i>*e</i>	<i>u, e</i>	<i>u, (e)</i>	<i>e, (u)</i>	<i>u, e</i>

1) solik. *Йнквалы* 'Belt' [Cherkalov 1783: 21], cherdyn. *Иткауль* 'Belt', kungur. *Интонъ* 'Belt', verkhorur. *Интенквалы* 'Belt' < Proto Mansi *\*ĩnt-*, *\*ĩntāp* [Honti 1982];



## CONCLUSION

So, in a comparative analysis of the Solikamsk dictionary with the data of the Perm dictionaries of the XVIII century, features were identified that show significant similarities between these sources.

So, for Proto Mansi *\*k*, *\*š* and *\*e* are characterized by a single archaic reflexion. The implementation of the Proto Mansi *\*u* is also identical, but according to the ratio of the occurrence of one or another reflex, we found parallels [Cherkalov 1783] with the Cherdyn dictionary, in which most examples are characterized by the preservation of the protovowel, and at the same time a discrepancy with the data of the Kungur dictionary, where innovative South Mansi development is presented. With regard to *\*ć* for the Solikamsk, Cherdyn and Verkhoturksky sources, along with the nascent innovation process, are characterized by the preservation of the Pramansi consonant, which according to [Honti 1988] indicates southern dialects.

It should also be noted that the similarity recorded above in the reflection of the Mansi data and Proto Mansi transformation testifies to the high accuracy of the recording of two independent authors, P. S. Pallas and S. Cherkalov. In general, the language of this region in the XVIII century was distinguished by the presence of archaic features, which were preserved as doublets for virtually all signs with the exception of Proto Mansi *\*ā* part of the dialects. We believe that the formation of Western dialects in the period under review was just beginning.

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