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Natalia Koshelyuk

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## ON THE DIALECT BELONGING OF ARCHPRIEST SIMEON CHERKALOV'S ARCHIVAL MANSI DICTIONARY (1783)<sup>1</sup>

Kosheliuk Natalia

ORCID 0000-0002-5833-7971

Ivannikov Institute for System Programming of the RAS, Moscow  
(Russia)

NKoshelyuk@yandex.ru

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the study of one of the earliest Mansi dictionary dated to the second half of the XVIII century. It is known about the source that it was recorded in Solikamsk, near the places of residence of Pelym Mansi, speakers of the Western dialect. However, there are no clear indications of the involvement of the language of this dictionary with the Western Mansi dialect. The graphic-phonetic analysis of Simeon Cherkalov's dictionary based on the diagnostic signs of László Honti allows us to get an answer about his dialect affiliation.

**Keywords.** Mansi language, archival data, dialect affiliation, Cherkalov's dictionary, XVIII century.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The study is devoted to one of the earliest texts of the Mansi script – the dictionary of Simeon Cherkalov, dated 1783. This source is of great value for linguists engaged in Ob-Ugric studies: it was

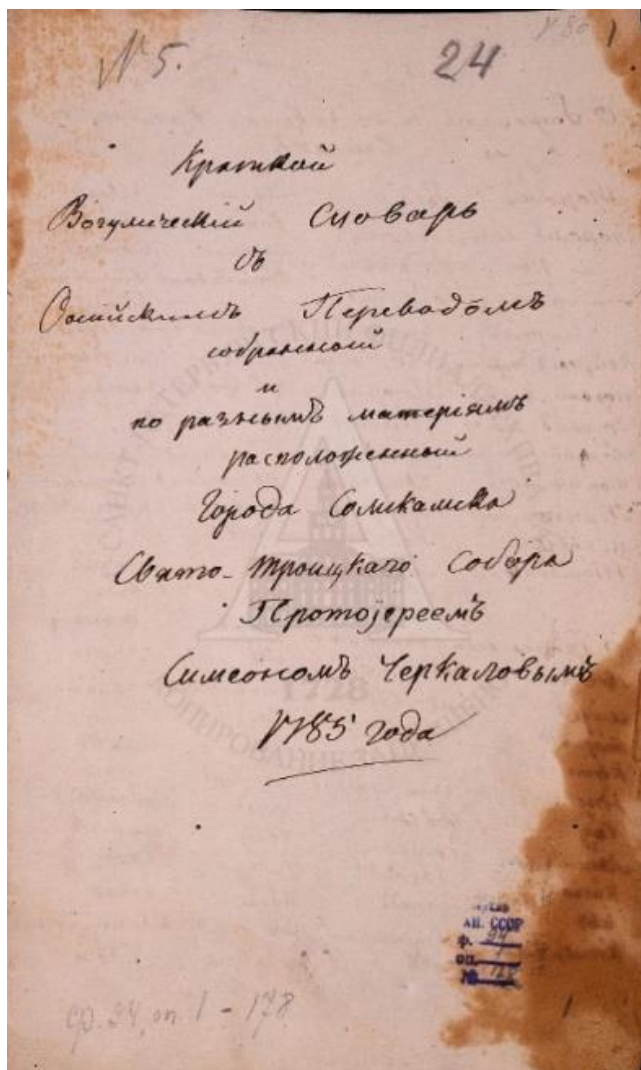
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discovered only in 2017 in the National Library of St. Petersburg and is the only evidence of the Mansi dialect localized in Solikamsk and its districts in the second half of the XVIII century. It is known that by this time the number of the Mansi population of the Perm province, due to the process of Russification, had significantly decreased, and by the XIX century. There were no Mansi left in the area who spoke their own language. An appeal to extralinguistic data – the expedition map of A. Kannisto, as the most fully reflecting the localization points of Mansi, showed that the recording of Cherkalov's dictionary was made closest to the places of residence of speakers of the Western Pelym dialect. But the difference is 135 km between the village of Pelym, where the researcher first recorded the Western dialect at the beginning of the XX century, and the city of Solikamsk in the second half of the XVIII century. It may turn out to be dialect-differentiating, so it is necessary to find out whether the language of the monument [Cherkalov 1783] really belongs to Western Mansi.

Currently, Simeon Cherkalov's dictionary is fully typed and presented on the LingvoDoc linguistic platform . The source consists of 611 words and includes 22 author's headings (about natural phenomena, names of planets, months, household items, animals, natural resources, etc.).

Pic 1. Title page of Simeon Cherkalov's dictionary.



This paper presents the results of graph-phonetic analysis of vowels and consonants of the dictionary of Archpriest Simeon Cherkalov to clarify its dialect affiliation. This source was studied according to Proto-Mansi reconstruction and the dialect-differentiating

features of L. Honti, proposed by the linguist in the works of [Honti 1982; 1988].

The study is structured as follows: below, for each of the diagnostic features, all the examples of correspondences found in the monument are given, with the addition of the corresponding parallels of the Western Nizhnelozvinsky dialect (LU) from [Kannisto 2013], as the source closest to the place of entry of the Solikamsk dictionary, and after that the conclusions follow.

Pic 2. Dialect-differentiating features of the Mansi dialects according to [Honti 1988: 149].

Proto-Mansi [Honti 1982]	Proto-Mansi [Norman- skaya 2015]	South [Honti 1988]	East [Honti 1988]	West [Honti 1988]	North [Honti 1988]	[Chirkalov 1873]
*ā	*ā̇	ā	ō	ō	ō	o
*ī	*a	a	ā/ē	ē	ā/e <sup>2</sup>	e/a
*γ	*-γ	əw	ī	əγ/θ <sup>3</sup>	əγ	0/γ
*ć	*č	ć	ś	ś	ś	ć/ś
*k_Vb.		k	x/k	k	x	k
*š		š	s(š)	š	s/š	š

### Proto-Mansi \*ā<sup>4</sup> > o

1) solik. *Kóuu* ‘Ant’ [Cherkalov 1783: 16] < Proto-Mansi \**kāšyāj* [Honti 1982];

<sup>2</sup> Updated according to the Ob Mansi field data, see details [Normanskaya 2015];

<sup>3</sup> Clarified by Normanskaya Yu.V. by dialect examples [Honti 1982];

<sup>4</sup> Here and further, all examples are given by [Honti 1982].

- 2) solik. *Кóтоль* ‘Sun, day’ [Cherkalov 1783: 26], LU *кə·тл* ‘Sun, day’ [Kannisto 2013: 516] < Proto-Mansi *\*kātəl ~ \*kǎtəl* [Honti1982];
- 3) solik. *Торомъ* ‘God’ [Cherkalov 1783: 2], LU *tōr̄əm* ‘God, sky’ [Kannisto 2013: 934] < Proto-Mansi *\*tārəm* [Honti 1982];

In the source under study, the proto-linguistic *\*a* turns into *o*, which is typical for all dialect groups of the Mansi language, except for the southern one. To determine dialect affiliation, this feature is irrelevant, despite the complete coincidence of the data from the Cherkalov dictionary with the implementation of this Proto-Mansi vowel in the Western Pelym dialect.

#### **Proto-Mansi *\*ĭ* > e/a**

- 1) solik. *Эмке*<sup>5</sup> ‘Partridge’ [Cherkalov 1783: 13], LU *əŋkə* ‘Partridge’
- 2) solik. *Эвъ* ‘Door’ [Cherkalov 1783: 6], LU *eβ* ‘Door’ [Kannisto 2013: 16] < Proto-Mansi *\*ĭwɜ* [Honti 1982];
- 3) solik. *Л’ямантъ*<sup>6</sup> ‘Bird cherry’ [Cherkalov 1783: 30], LU *l’ēm* ‘Bird cherry’ [Kannisto 2013: 446] < Proto-Mansi *\*ĭmɜ* [Honti 1982];

Variants of the implementation of Proto-Mansi *\*ĭ*, recorded in the dictionary of Archpriest Simeon Cherkalov, demonstrate that in the source of the second half of the XVIII century the transition of this vowel to *e* was already actively underway. According to the frequency of occurrence of the reflex *e* in place of the Proto-Mansi *\*ĭ*, it can be assumed that the language of the Solikamsk dictionary is more close to the Western dialect group and to a lesser extent to the southern one.

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<sup>5</sup>Э is a variant of writing *e* in the position of the beginning of the word..

<sup>6</sup>Я is a variant of writing *a* in the position after the soft consonant.

### **Proto-Mansi \*γ > 0/γ**

#### **In the auslaut position:**

1) solik. *Éны* ‘Big’ [Cherkalov 1783: 2], LU *ĩeniy* ‘Big, old’ [Kannisto 2013: 217] < Proto-Mansi \**jänəγ* [Honti 1982] < Proto-Ural \**enä*;

2) solik. *Тогъ* ‘Bough’ [Cherkalov 1783: 27], LU *təγ* ‘Bough’ [Kannisto 2013: 867] < Proto-Mansi \**təγ* (~ -a) [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Тары* ‘Pine tree’ [Cherkalov 1783: 26], LU *təriγ* ‘Pine tree’ [Kannisto 2013: 927] < Proto-Mansi \**tärəγ* [Honti 1982];

As can be seen from the examples, Proto-Mansi \**γ* in the source under study, with the exception of one case (*могъ* ‘bough’), it falls out. This indicates that it may belong to Eastern or Western dialects. Comparison with the data of the Perm dialect of Kannisto's dictionary shows that the Solikamsk dialect is still more correlated with the reflexion for Eastern dialects.

### **Proto-Mansi \*ć > ć, ś**

1) solik. *Чахаухъ* ‘Swallow’ [Cherkalov 1783: 13], LU *šəkəjəχ* ‘Swallow’ [Kannisto 2013: 822] < Proto-Mansi \**čəkəjək* [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Асбай* ‘Aunt’ [Cherkalov 1783: 28], LU *ās* ‘Grandfather’ [Kannisto 2013: 53] < Proto-Mansi \**āć(3)* [Honti 1982] < Proto-Ural \**ićä*;

3) solik. *Пасерь* ‘Rowan’ [Cherkalov 1783: 23], LU *pəšəšər* ‘Rowan’ [Kannisto 2013: 658] < Proto-Mansi \**păćār* [Honti 1982] < Proto-Ural \**pićla*;

The development of Mans \**ć*, presented in [Cherkalov 1783] is characteristic of the southern, northern, western and eastern dialect

groups. The preservation of this Proto-Mansi consonant in the words *асъай* 'aunt' and *на́серъ* 'rowan' testifies to the archaic basis of this source, dating back to the Proto-Ural *ć*.

### **Proto-Mansi \*k > k**

#### **Before the vowels of the back row:**

1) solik. *Ку́ль* 'Fish' [Cherkalov 1783: 23], LU *turkul* 'Fish' [Kannisto 2013: 929] < Proto-Mansi \**kūl* [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Кóтоль* 'Sun' [Cherkalov 1783: 26], LU *kətɫ* 'Sun' [Kannisto 2013: 392] < Proto-Mansi \**kātəl* (~ -a) [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Кéппе* 'Aspen' [Cherkalov 1783: 13], LU *ka ppá* 'Aspen' [Kannisto 2013: 336] < Proto-Mansi \**kīpɜ* [Honti 1982];

According to the examples given, the preservation of Proto-Mansi \**k* in the position before the front vowels in the studied dictionary is characteristic of three groups of Mansi dialects: southern, eastern and western. Thus, for [Cherkalov 1783] this trait is not dialect-differentiating.

### **Proto-Mansi \*š > š**

1) solik. *Шíшъ* 'Back' [Cherkalov 1783: 26] < Proto-Mansi \**šiš* (~ -ä) [Honti 1982];

2) solik. *Кóшкеръ* 'Nail' [Cherkalov 1783: 17] < Proto-Mansi \**künš* (~ -ä) [Honti 1982];

3) solik. *Ýшъ* 'Town' [Cherkalov 1783: 5], LU *uš ~ vuš* 'Town' [Kannisto 2013: 705] < Proto-Mansi \**ūša* [Honti 1982];



The reflexion presented in the dictionary is characteristic of all Mansi dialects and is not significant for clarifying its affiliation.

## CONCLUSION

As a result of the study of the Solikamsk dictionary by dialect-differentiating features [Honti 1988] and comparison of its data with the Pelym dialect, it can be concluded that the alleged affiliation of the language of this source to the West Mansi dialect is not confirmed.

As can be seen from the analysis, the implementation of Proto-Mansi  $\acute{c} > \acute{c}/\acute{s}$ ,  $*\acute{s} > \acute{s}$ ,  $*\acute{t} > e, a$  in the dictionary Simeon Cherkalov is found in all dialect groups; the reflex *o* of Proto-Mansi  $*a\bar{}$  corresponds to eastern, western and northern dialects;  $*k > k$  – to southern, eastern, western, and  $*\gamma > \gamma$  – to eastern and western.

However, according to the frequency of occurrence of one or another reflex, in two cases we recorded a greater similarity of the dictionary with the Eastern dialects – the loss of  $\gamma$  on the basis of Proto-Mansi  $*\gamma$ , and with the Western ones – by the presence of *e* for Proto-Mansi  $*a\bar{}$ . Thus, the correlation of the revealed reflexion in [Cherkalov 1783] with the traditionally distinguished diagnostic features indicates the exclusivity of this source in the classification of Mansi dialects.

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