
EDITORIAL PREFACE

We express our sincere gratitude to the editorial board of the journal *Sociolinguistika* for the invitation to dedicate the first issue of the journal in 2025 to the anniversary of the Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. This commemorative issue presents the work of scholars whose research interests align with the long-standing sociolinguistic concern for the vitality of non-dominant, regional, and small-population languages.

The articles collected in this volume address sociolinguistic and language policy issues related to the current state and future prospects of the languages spoken by ethnic groups inhabiting the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of the Russian Federation.

The horizons of Yakut (Sakha) humanities scholarship – from the Institute’s founding to the present – are outlined in the opening article of the issue (S.I. Boyakova and N.I. Ivanova), which also offers an overview of sociolinguistic research on all languages of the region: Sakha (Yakut), Russian, and the languages of the Indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North.

The section on language policy highlights a range of pressing issues: from managing ethnocultural diversity in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (O.V. Vasilieva); to the role of ethnic media in preserving and promoting the Sakha language in the digital age and the development of effective governmental support mechanisms (Ch.N. Gavriliev); to the practice of hosting the International Olympiad in Languages and Cultures of Indigenous Peoples as a tool for language revitalization (O.N. Morozova and L. Grenoble).

Three articles based on field research explore the typology and specific features of language situations in the northern territories: GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technologies are used to analyze the linguistic landscape of the Even people of Russia, revealing the interplay between language and the geocultural environment (V.V. Filippova and S.I. Sharina); a comparative study investigates key ethnolinguistic indicators among Even language speakers in the villages of Sasyr (Momsy District) and Beryozovka (Srednekolymsky District) in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (B.Ya. Osipov and A.N. Khabarovskaya); and new sociological data are introduced on the linguistic self-identification and competence of Khanty, Mansi, and Nenets speakers living in the Kondinsky District of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug–Yugra, forming the basis for an interdisciplinary inquiry into the state of native language preservation among the Ob-Ugric peoples (N.V. Tkachuk).



This issue's «Young Scholars' Endeavours» features a study on the vitality of the Evenki language across several regions of the Russian Federation, based on census data (I.A. Danilov).

We hope that this issue, prepared in celebration of the Institute's 90th anniversary, will resonate with readers whose scholarly interests intersect with the themes presented – topics grounded in empirical research and central to the ongoing effort to preserve linguistic diversity.

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