

Revitalization history of two Turkic languages in remote Siberian areas: the fate of Soyot and Tofan

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Location



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The classification of sociolinguistic statuses

- **1A Extinct** – Soyot (Buryatia)
- **1B Dormant** – Aleut (Kamchatka region)
- **1B Silent** – Tofan (Irkutsk region)

Publication of linguistic materials, documentation of the language, support of the language learning initiatives

V. I. Rassadin



V. I. Rassadin's works

- Documentation of Tofan (1964-1976)
 - Leksika sovremennogo tofalarskogo jazyka. Candidate of Phil. thesis (1966)
 - Tofalarskij jazyk i jego mesto v sisteme tjurkskix jazykov. Doctor of Phil. thesis (1982)
 - Fonetika i leksika tofalarskogo jazyka (1971)
 - Morfologija tofalarskogo jazyka v sravnitelnom osvешenii (1978)
 - Tofa bukvar: Tofalarskij bukvar dlja pervogo klassa tofalarskix shkol (1989, with Shibkeev V. N.)
 - Syltyschyk: Kniga dlja chtenija v 1m klasse tofalarskix shkol (1990, with Shibkeev V. N.)
 - Toreen soot: Kniga dlja chtenija vo 2m klasse tofalarskix shkol (1994, with Shibkeev V. N.)
 - Tofalarsko-russkij i russko-tofalarskij slovar (1995)
 - Slovar tofalarsko-russkij i russko-tofalarskij: uchebnyj (2005)
 - Bukvar: Uchebnyj dlja tofalarskix shkol (2008)
 - Propisi: Rabochaja tetrad k bukvarju dlja 1 klassa tofalarskix shkol (2008)
 - Tofalarsko-russkij slovar (2016)
 - Russko-tofalarskij detskiy razgovornik: uchebnoe posobie (2020)
- Documentation of Soyot (1970s)
 - Soyotsko-burjatsko-russkij slovar (2003)
 - Slovar soyotsko-russkij (2006)
 - Soyotica (2010)
 - Jazyk soyotov Burjatii (2012)
 - Russian-soyot-buryat-english dictionary = Русско-сойотско-бурятско-английский словарь = Орыс-сойыт-быраат-англи словарь (2020)
 - Kartinyj slovar soyotskogo jazyka (2020)
 - Dobukvarnyj ustnyj kurs po razvitiju soyotskoj rechi: uchebnoe posobie dlja 1 klassa (2021)
 - Russko-soyotskij detskiy razgovornik: uchebnoe posobie (2021)

Comparison table

	Tofan	Soyot
Writing	1989	2001
School teaching	1990	2005
audio recordings	+	-
video recordings	+	-
Published texts	+	3
Teaching materials	+	+

Revitalization Program of Soyot I (2001)

1992 – Center of the Soyot Culture

1993 – Soyot National Rural Council (Sorok)

1993 – Association of the Soyots of Okinskiy District

2000 – Indigenous Small-numbered Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East

2001 – the Program of the Soyot Language Revitalization

2001 – Writing system

2005 – Teaching at school (Sorok)

Documentation of Soyot 2022

- 19-25 May, 2022, Okinskiy District, Republic of Buryatiya
- Orlik
- Sorok
 - No rememberers
 - No new speakers
 - 269 minutes in Buryat



All the images were taken within the 2022 expedition to the Soyots.

Revitalization Program of Soyot II (2020)

- 1 000 000 rubles
- Rassadin V. I. Russian-soyot-buryat-english dictionary = Русско-сойотско-бурятско-английский словарь = Орыс-сойыт-быраат-англи словарь = Ород-хойод-буряад-англи толи / В. И. Рассадин; отв. ред. С. М. Трофимова. - Улан-Удэ ; Элиста : НоваПринт, 2020. - 415 с.
- The Soyot language classroom (Sorok)
- Children's art school (Orlik)
- A conference with Tyvan colleagues
- Center of the Culture of Indigenous Peoples of the Baikal Area

Soyot at school

- Teaching materials:
 - printed phrasebook
 - picture dictionary
- Vocabulary banners
- Soyot ABC flashcards
- Talking dolls
- Singing microphones



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Russian Federation Census 2020 (Tofan)

4. Language proficiency and language use

Tofan

	Urban and rural population		Urban		Rural	
	Number of speakers	of them use it in a daily life	Number of speakers	of them use it in a daily life	Number of speakers	of them use it in a daily life
Indicated their language proficiency	135 125 671	134 623 178	98 688 579	98 421 943	36 437 074	36 201 235
Russian Federation	8	1	4	1	4	0
Irkutsk region	5	1	2	1	3	-
Republic of Khakasia	1	-	1	-	-	-
Sakha Republic	1	-	-	-	1	-
Samara region	1	-	1	-	-	-

Tofan

- 2 good semi-speakers
 - 10 semi-speakers
 - 10+ rememberers
-
- 5 teachers of Tofan

2019-2023 Events for Tofan

- Taught at schools (Alygdzher, Nerha, Verkhnyaya Gutara)
- 2019 – First Baikal Language School
- 2020 – The Victory Day song translated into Tofan (2 verses and chorus)
- 2020 – Rassadin V. I. Russian-Tofan children's phrasebook
- 2021 – Tofan student in the Institute of the Peoples of the North, Saint-Petersburg
- 2022 – Refresher courses for the teachers of Tofan
 - smaller group chat with 5 teachers of Tofan
- 2023 – Development of Tofan lesson plans

What did not work

- Audio-phrasebook 2018 (only 5 dialogues)
- Conversation Club at the Ethnocenter in Alygdzher 2017-...
- Evening lessons of Tofan in Alygdzher 2018-...

Plans for 2023-2024

- Restoration of intergenerational transmission
 - Documentation of Tofan
 - Master-Apprentice Project
 - Conversation club
 - Teaching materials
 - for schools
 - for kindergartens
- Clarification of sociolinguistic situation in 3 villages
 - 2024 visit

Nizhneudinsk airport

- Эъккии!
- Дорообо!
- Амыр менді!
- Менді!
- Мендоо!



Nerha bakery (2021)



Conclusion

- Existence of speakers
- Existence of audio recordings
- Desire and involvement of the community members
- Presence of the language manager with the team
- Support on the level of local and regional administrations, POs

Аарладым!

Спасибо!

Thank you!