

BOOK NOTICES

МАТЕРИАЛЫ СОВЕТСКО-ВЬЕТНАМСКОЙ ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКОЙ
ЭКСПЕДИЦИИ 1979 ГОДА

Material of the Soviet-Vietnamese linguistic expedition in the year 1979

Institute of Oriental Studies and Institute of Linguistics,
Academy of Sciences, USSR; and Institute of Linguistics, Committee of Social
Sciences, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
Moscow: Nauka.

ЯЗЫК ЛАХА

The Laha Language. 1986, 407 pp., 3 roubles 40 kopecks.

ЯЗЫК МЫОНГ

The Muong Language. 1987, 519 pp., 4 roubles 60 kopecks.

ЯЗЫК КСИНГМУЛ

The Ksingmul Language. 1990, 419 pp., 4 roubles.

There are nearly 60 tribes inhabiting the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, each of which speak a distinct language belonging to either the Southeast Asian group or the East Asian group. Most of these languages are unwritten.

An expedition was carried out by the cooperation between the Soviet government, through the Institute of Oriental Studies and the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, USSR, and the Vietnamese government, through the Institute of Linguistics, Committee of Social Sciences, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in order to investigate the linguistic structures of the languages that are spoken among the Vietnamese tribes.

The corpora were collected during field studies by interviewing informants selected from tribal natives. Up to 1986 the project was carried out in four phases as follows.

1. The first phase took place in 1979 and investigated six languages in central and northern Vietnam:
 - a. Shokchang dialect of Khmer (Mon-Khmer family)
 - b. Ksingmul language (Mon-Khmer family)
 - c. Cham language (Continental tongue of Austronesian family)

- d. Muong language (Viet-Muong family)
 - e. Laha language (Presumably Kadai family)
 - f. Hmong (Meo) language (Miao-Yao family).
2. The second phase took place in 1981 and investigated four languages in central and northern Vietnam:
 - a. Tru language (Continental tongue of Austronesian family)
 - b. Ma language (Mon-Khmer family)
 - c. Pong language (Viet-Muong family)
 - d. Pupeo language (Presumably Kadai family).
 3. The third phase took place in 1984 and investigated three languages in central Vietnam:
 - a. Taoic language (Mon-Khmer family)
 - b. Arem language (Viet-Muong family)
 - c. Vankieu language (Mon-Khmer family).
 4. The fourth phase took place in 1986 and investigated three languages in central Vietnam:
 - a. Katu language (Mon-Khmer family)
 - b. Penong language (Mon-Khmer family)
 - c. Ruk language (Viet-Muong family)
 Together with some supplementary material on Vankieu.

Up to 1990 the report of the project was prepared in the form of a series of 10 books which were published by the Central Department of Oriental Literature, Nauka Publishers. The authors of the linguistic essays are as follows:

1. Shokchang dialect of Khmer, A.Yu. Efimov, Doan Thien Thuat, Ho Le
2. Cham language, N.F. Aliyeva, Bui Khanh The
3. Laha language, N.B. Solntseva, Hoang Van Ma
4. Hmong (Meo) language, Yu.Ya. Plam, Fam Duk Zuong, Nguyen Van Loi
5. Muong language, N.K. Sokolovskaya, Nguyen Van Tai
6. Ksingmul language, T.G. Pogibenko, Bui Khanh The
7. Ma language, T.G. Pogibenko, A.Yu. Efimov, Long Seam, Li Toan Thang
8. Pong language, N.K. Solovskaya, I.N. Komarova, Yu.Ya. Plam, Nguyen Van Tai
9. Pupeo language, N.B. Solntseva, V.M. Solntsev, Yu.Ya. Plam, Hoang Tue, Hoang van Ma
10. Tru Language, L.I. Shkarban, V.M. Solntsev, A.V. Fedorov, Hoang Van Hanh.

Each book in the series focuses on a specific language. Each book begins with a preface by the editorial staff and is divided into two parts: linguistic description and field material.

Three books of the series are reviewed here.

ЯЗЫК ЛАХА

THE LAHA LANGUAGE

Part I - Linguistic Description

1. Introduction: the Laha people and language, background of the three selected informants on sex, age, domicile, parentage, spouse, education, occupation, languages
2. Phonological System: the syllable, consonants, vowels, tones
3. Lexicon: some observations on the Laha lexical system
4. Morphological Characteristics: the morpheme and the syllable, the morpheme and the word, types of words, subordinate morphemes, problems of 'old' morphology
5. Parts of speech: criteria to detach Laha parts of speech, nouns, pronouns, numerals, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, sub-parts of speech
6. Syntax: introductory observations, simple sentences, parts of a sentence, compound and complex sentences, interrogative sentences
7. Notes
8. Bibliography

Part II - Field Material

1. Thematic Vocabulary, classified by semantic areas, such as objects and phenomena, numerals, pronouns, characteristics, and arranged in the following order:

- I. Russian lexical unit
- II. Equivalent Vietnamese lexical unit
- III. Equivalent Laha lexical unit phonologically transcribed
- IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III
- V. Literal Russian translation of III
- VI. Note if any

2. Diagnostic Grammatical Questionnaires: some fundamental principles followed by questionnaires classified in groups showing grammatical features such as fundamental concepts, parts of speech, classification of words, meanings of aspects and tenses, and arranged in the following order:

- I. Russian sentence (in Russian word order)
- II. Equivalent Vietnamese sentence (in Vietnamese word order)
- III. Equivalent Laha sentence phonologically transcribed (in Laha word order)
- IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III
- V. Literal Russian translation of III
- VI. Note if any

3. Folklore Material: a folk-tale

4. Appendices: map of Laha-speaking regions, symbols and tables of phonological units, abbreviations, and contents.

ЯЗЫК МУОНГ

THE MUONG LANGUAGE

Part I - Linguistic Description

1. Introduction: the Muong people and language, background of the eight selected informants on sex, age, domicile, parentage, spouse, education, occupation, languages

2. Phonology: tones, initials, vowels, formation of syllables, finals, their interaction and combination in syllables

3. Lexicon: structural characteristics of vocabulary, homonyms, polysemy, synonyms, some lexical difference of Muong from Vietnamese

4. Morphology: structure of words, parts of speech (with a chart and tables of substantives and words of other classes such as verbs, adjectives and pronouns)

5. Syntax: introductory observations, simple sentences, compound and complex sentences

6. Conclusion

7. Notes

8. Bibliography

Part II - Field Material

1. Thematic Vocabulary, classified by semantic areas, such as parts of human body, nature, architecture, directions, time, and arranged in the following order:

I. Russian lexical unit

II. Equivalent Vietnamese lexical unit

III. Equivalent Muong lexical unit phonologically transcribed

IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III

V. Literal Russian translation of III

VI. Note if any

With indexes in both Russian and Vietnamese

2. Diagnostic Grammatical Questionnaires: some fundamental principles followed by questionnaires classified in groups showing grammatical features such as fundamental concepts, parts of speech, classification for words, meanings of aspects and tenses, and arranged in the following order:

I. Russian sentence (in Russian word order)

II. Equivalent Vietnamese sentence (in Vietnamese word order)

III. Equivalent Muong sentence phonologically transcribed (in Muong word order)

IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III

V. Literal Russian translation of III

VI. Note if any

3. Folklore Material: two folk-tales: 'Hunting' and 'A Girl Called Khot'

4. Appendices: map of Muong-speaking regions, symbols and tables of phonological units, abbreviations, codes of questionnaires, and contents.

ЯЗЫК КСИНГМУЛ

THE KSINGMUL LANGUAGE

Part I - Linguistic Description

1. Introduction: the Ksingmul people and language, background of the four selected informants on sex, domicile, parentage, spouse, education, occupation, languages

2. Phonology: the syllable, initials, final consonants, vowels, prosodic features, alteration of presyllabics

3. Lexicon: short etymological characteristics of vocabulary, structural - semantic peculiarities of vocabulary

4. Morphology: the syllable - the morpheme - the word, word classes (verbs, adjectives, nouns, pronouns, etc.)

5. Syntax: combination of words, simple sentences, compound and complex sentences

6. Notes

7. Bibliography

Part II - Field Material

1. Thematic Vocabulary, classified by semantic areas, such as parts of human body, nature, directions, time, fauna and flora, and arranged in the following order:

I. Russian lexical unit

II. Equivalent Vietnamese lexical unit

III. Equivalent Ksingmul lexical unit phonologically transcribed

IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III

V. Literal Russian translation of III

VI. Note if any

With indexes in both Russian and Vietnamese

2. Diagnostic Grammatical Questionnaires: some fundamental principles followed by questionnaires classified in groups showing grammatical features such as fundamental concepts, parts of speech, classification of words, meanings of aspects and tenses, and arranged in the following order:

I. Russian sentence (in Russian word order)

II. Equivalent Vietnamese sentence (in Vietnamese word order)

- III. Equivalent Ksingmul sentence phonologically transcribed (in Ksingmul word order)
- IV. Literal Vietnamese translation of III
- V. Literal Russian translation of III
- VI. Note if any

3. Appendices: map of Ksingmul-speaking regions, symbols and tables of phonological units, abbreviations, codes of questionnaires, and contents.

The explanations in these volumes are in Russian, and the data of Vietnamese and the target languages are transcribed by the modified International Phonetic Alphabet. The Russian index in the Russian alphabetical order and the Vietnamese in the Roman alphabetical order in two of the volumes make it easier to find the vocabulary in them than in the first volume. Topics in the linguistic part of each book are not entirely parallel to those in each other and the Russian technical terms used in all the volumes are inconsistent. Nevertheless, the books are useful for anybody who studies Southeast Asian and East Asian languages and linguistics, especially one who knows some Russian. Moreover, the methodology sets a good example for those collecting field material on other languages.

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