

Studying Evenki-Yakut multilingualism in various conditions

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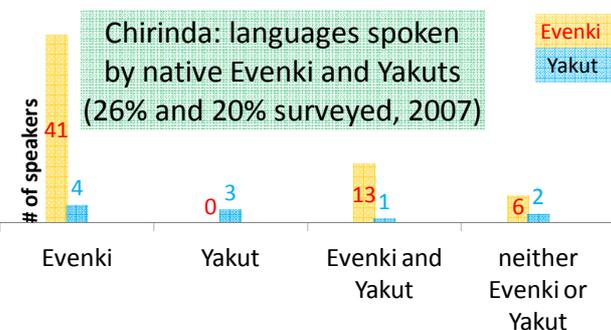
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We focus on three cases of how Evenki and Yakut languages co-exist and trace the reasons for the difference

Evenki	Yakut
Tungusic > Altaic	Turkic > Altaic
Endangered	Vulnerable
5 000 native speakers (37 000 native Evenki) (there are also speakers in China and Mongolia)	450 000 native speakers (478 000 native Yakuts)

Case 1. Chirinda and Ekonda

- Evenkiysky District (a semi-autonomous region)
- Higher status of Evenki language
- Neighbouring Yakut “enclave” Yessey



Lexical borrowings in Evenki from Yakut

- anan ‘on purpose’ < ana:n
- usta ‘whole’ <- usta ‘length; duration’
- hähən- ‘tell’ <- seherge:

Evenki language among the Yessey Yakuts

Census 2010: Yessey Yakuts do not speak Evenki

Tatyana Torpushonok (Dzhenkoul), Evenki from Panolik born 1924, interviewed in 2007:

“<during or after the war> I went to Yessey. There was Dunya Chardu, she was a Yessey Yakut but she spoke Evenki with no accent”

Case 2. Nakanno and Khamakar

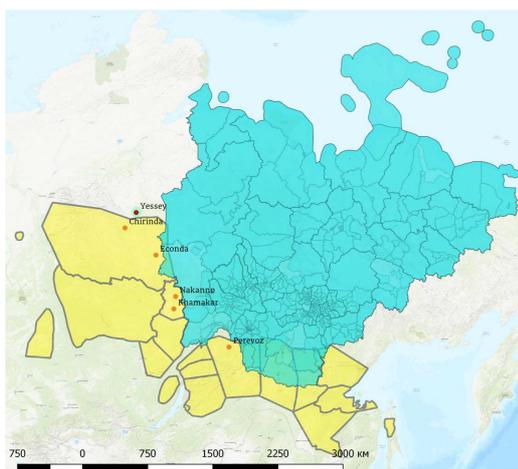
- Irkutsk region
- Yakut language less prestigious
- Yakuts migrating in the 1930s
- In Khamakar, only one elderly Evenki woman speaks Yakut (2016)

Lina Egorova, Evenki from Nakanno born 1930, interviewed in 2018

“My mother (Yakut) lived in Toyhaya, they came here in 1930 on foot with one cow...”

Sources for research

- Reports from 1920s
- Census 2010 <http://std.gmcrosstata.ru/>
- Fieldwork guided by Olga Kazakevich: <http://siberian-lang.srcc.msu.ru>
- Sociolinguistic surveys
- Narratives and interviews
- Study of borrowings in fieldwork data (vocabularies and texts)



(N. Mamontova based on Vasilevich 1948)

Evenki dialects

Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Yakut (Yessey)

A. T. Samokhin wrote in 1929 (“Statistical and economical report of Bodaybo Evenki”): “Many Evenki speak Yakut fluently, some of them even considering it as their mother tongue”

Case 3. Perevoz

- Irkutsk region
- Leading role of Yakut
- Peoples consider themselves Evenki but they speak only Yakut (2018 survey)

Gennady Nilov, Evenki from Perevoz, speaks Yakut born 1944, interviewed in 2018:

“I do not speak Evenki. Last time I used it was 40 years ago with my friends <says phrases like “come here”, “no”, “there is”, “there is not”>... My mother was Evenki, I’ve got lots of Evenki relatives. My cousins from Tyanya, they speak both Evenki and Yakut. In their village, Yakut is prevailing but they speak Evenki with each other when in the taiga”

Lexical borrowings in (Perevoz) Yakut from Evenki

- kulugun ‘fireplace’ < guluwun
- gujawun ‘berry picking device’ < gujawun
- ojolo ‘nutcracker (bird)’ < ojolo
- labutta / labikta ‘reindeer moss’ < lawikta
- niri ‘Thymallus (fish)’ < jiru