

Northern Selkup folklore in space and time



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Selkup Languages: Uralic, Samoyedic

Population Census 2010

Ethnic group strength 3612

Consider Selkup their mother tongue 1334 (36,6%)

*Selkup speakers 945 (25,9%) / about **600***

Northern Selkup

Ethnic group strength 1811

Consider Northern Selkup their mother tongue 1271 (70%)

Northern Selkup speakers 866 (49%) / about 600

Southern Selkup

Ethnic group strength 1181

Consider Southern Selkup their mother tongue 22 (1,9%)

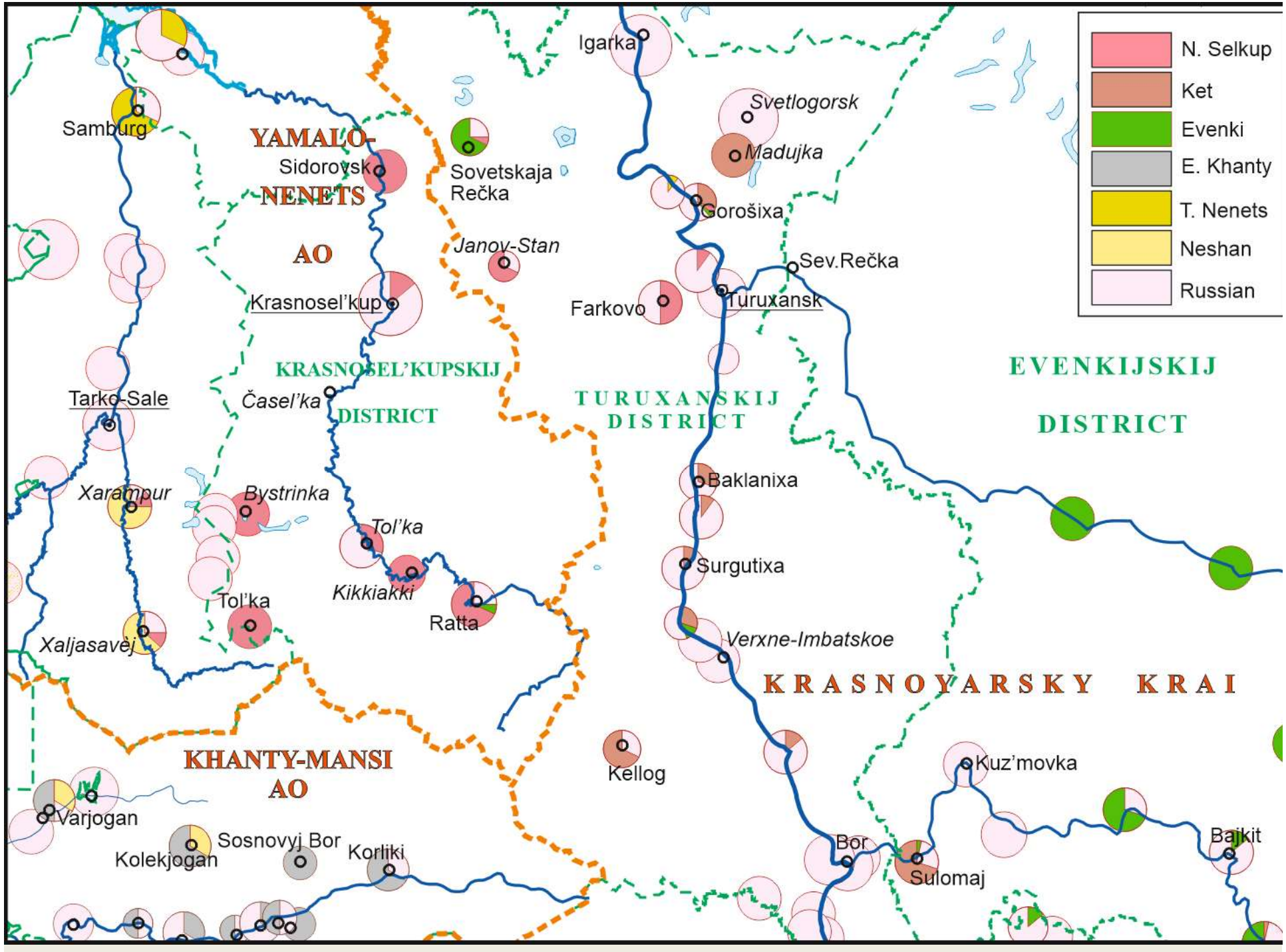
*Southern Selkup speakers 50 (4%) / under **10 (3)***

Plan

- 1) to give an overview of the recordings of Selkup folklore done in the Northern Selkup communities between 1925 and 2015
- 2) to reveal the way of existence and transmission of folklore tradition in the communities within this period;
- 3) to show the distribution of folklore stories and motives over the Northern Selkup territory and to trace possible borrowings from contacting folklore traditions;
- 4) to analyze the use of tense, mood and evidential verb forms in folklore texts recorded in different communities and in different time periods.

Языки Сибири





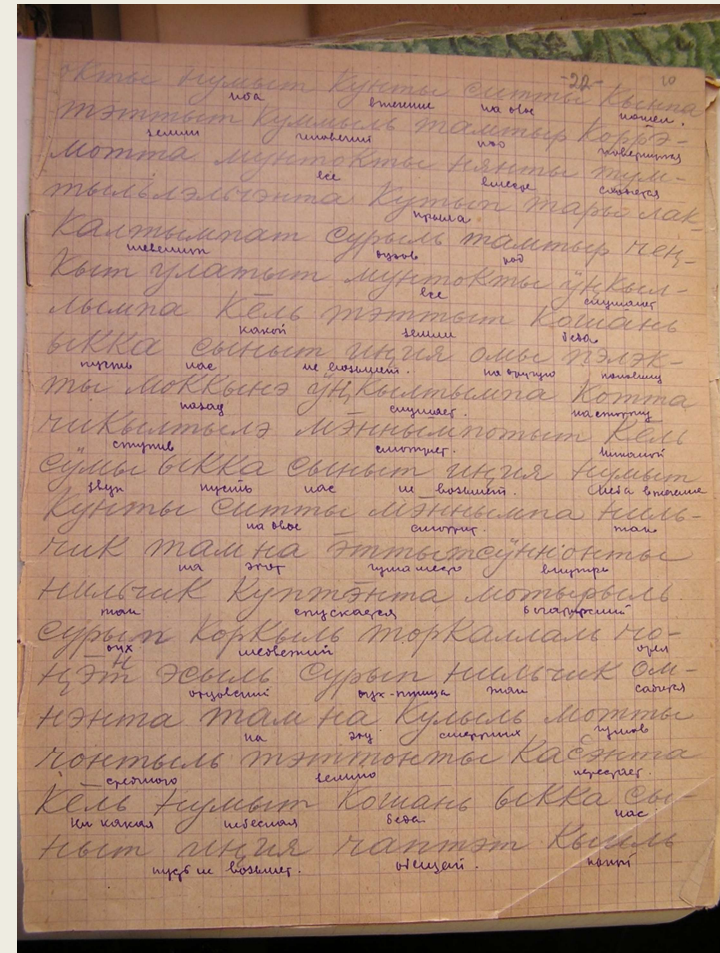
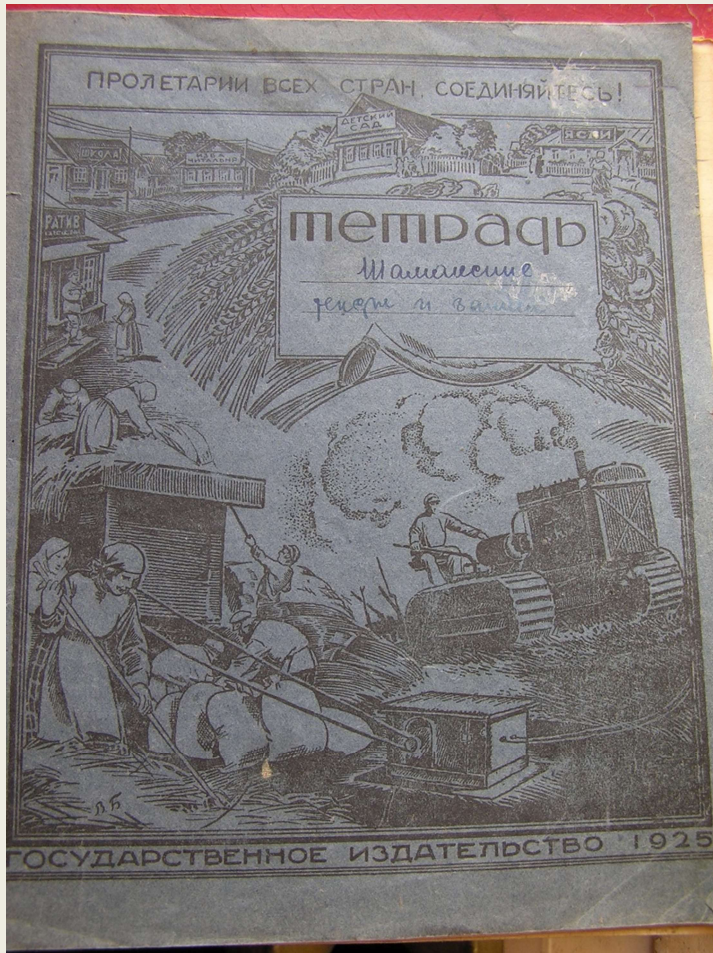
1. Collections of Northern Selkup Folklore

- *Northern Selkup songs of Kai Donner audio archive (1914);*
- *Selkup texts from Georgiy and Ekaterina Prokofievs Archive (1925–1928);*
- *Ludmila Varkovitskaya Archive (1941)*
- *Northern Selkup folklore texts from Angelina Kuzmina Archive (1960s–1970s);*
- *Northern Selkup folklore texts from Dulson et Co archive (1960s–1980s)*
- *Farkovo texts and songs from Galina Pelikh et Co audio archive (1976)*

Collections of Northern Selkup Folklore

- *MSU Corpus (Ariadna Kuznetsova et Co) (1970–1977);*
- *Selkup songs from Victor Rudolf audio archive (1982);*
- *Northern Selkup Folklore texts from multi-media computer archive of LCL RCC MSU / LRSML IL RAS (1996–2018)*
- *Sergei Irikov audio archive (1980s–2000s)*
- *Audio archive of the Centre of Selkup culture in Krasnoselkup (1990s–2010s)*

Georgiy Prokofiev's notebook with Selkup texts recordings



A page of Ludmila Varkovitskaya field notebook

83
paya. Losol kstto orampayta. Nino facalamp.
Toppo shauu karpocia Nipue papesdica
yfol sompal 16. Ni mat karalkooplanna.
logina uauuamapera No xeu ouuapf epau
Yssamal selci. Etto celantetil pelamat
logokoa ceub emoiduy no bocpoma narobani
Koralxanta. Nino konnæ mennampay.
saberaya. romau nocuoppa
Yke sompal 16. Nino konnæ celampaya.
logia. nomuæ pera kopau
So 26.5 solax gampozempa. // Wogæ tablat
Doojaja nepuuek. facuuek
gombosempa. Ninto amtagg. jittæ nannæ
facuuek mau ceu(gboe) 2 'zapapit
xmasb gæq6. jil. pitel. Nino konnæ
uamtu onpauæa sota romau blep
mennampaya. Naræ gorax jittæ celampaya
nocuoppa Myræ koræ gæpæ ucheuæpæ
Ninto celampaya. Utaf gæb. karæ
pau chepæ ? pæpov na pagodæ
ämnoñkel karpasnois. Ninto sarçimæ
cuçuyat ropæ roçoba Tam nphætan
nuyal etæ. Nino rannæ nuyal etæ
"dyonæ" ællu kopau bupid Dyæ. ouuau

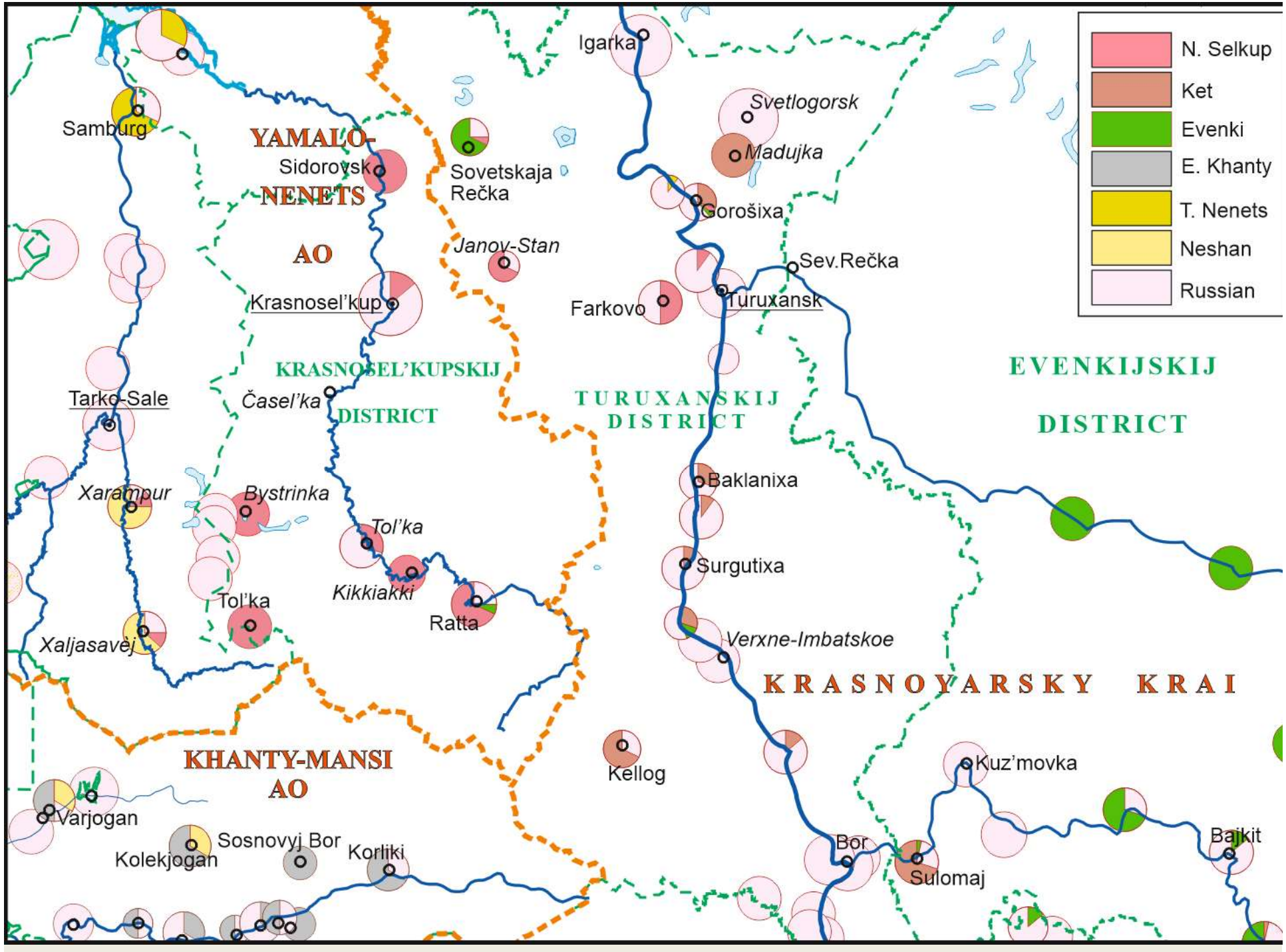
2. The ways of existence and transmission of folklore tradition in the communities during the last century

Information sources:

- historical data both published (see e.g. Prokofiev 1928) and unpublished (archival documents),
- life-stories of the communities members,
- results of sociolinguistic surveys done in Northern Selkup communities during the last quarter of a century

3. Distribution of folklore stories and motives over the Northern Selkup territory

- Possible borrowings from contacting folklore traditions: Ket, Khanty, Evenki, Russian



	N. Selkup
	Ket
	Evenki
	E. Khanty
	T. Nenets
	Neshan
	Russian

**YAMALO-NENETS
AO**

**KRASNOSEL'KUPSKIJ
DISTRICT**

**TURUXANSKIJ
DISTRICT**

**EVENKIJSKIJ
DISTRICT**

**KHANTY-MANSI
AO**

KRASNOYARSKY KRAI

Samburg

Igarka

Svetlogorsk

Madujka

Sovetskaja
Rečka

Gorošixa

Janov-Stan

Sev.Rečka

Krasnosel'kup

Farkovo

Turuxansk

Tarko-Sale

Časel'ka

Baklanixa

Xarampur

Bystrinka

Tol'ka

Surgutixa

Kikkiakki

Ratta

Verxne-Imbatskoe

Xaljasavėj

KRASNOYARSKY KRAI

Kellog

Kuz'movka

Varjogan

Kolekjogan

Sosnovyj Bor

Korliki

Bor

Sulomaj

Bajkit

4. The use of tense, mood and evidential verb forms in folklore texts

- Place of recording
- Time of recording
- Text type

Genres of Northern Selkup texts

Shaman ritual texts

- *shaman incantations (ritual)*

Folklore texts

- *Fairy-tails (including remnants of epics)*
- *Shaman legends*
- *Warriors legends*
- *Songs (personal)*

Hunting stories

Life stories

- *Autobiographies*
- *Biographies of “extraordinary people”*
- *Life events*

Evidential forms

(1) tʃe:lɪ-t(i) aj iræ-tɪ tʃe:l-ent-ɪ naj
sun-POSS.3SG and moon-POSS.3SG shine-IPFV-3SG.SBJ so.it.is
'The sun and the moon are shining, so it is'

innæ-nɪ qə:tɪ-mmi-**nt**-a na
up-ELAT glitter-DUR-**EVID**-3SG so
'from the top they glitter, it seems so it is.'

qɪfqa-n nan ɛj qə:t-æli-mmi-**nt**-ɔ:tɪn
star-PL long also glitter-PLSBJ-DUR-**EVID** -3PL
'The stars also shine for some time, it seems' (RA 1982)

(2) manni-mp-aŋ εj manni-mp-aŋ εj naj
look-DUR-1SG.SBJ again look-DUR-1SG.SBJ again so.it.is

‘I watch and watch again and again, so it is:’

seλtʃi ɭimpɪ ili-**nt**-a na

seven eagles live-**EVID**-3SG.SBJ so

‘Seven eagles live (there) it seems, so’ (RA 1982)

(3) ni:ni: takki menni-mpi-ŋ-a

then downstream look-PSTN-EP-3SG.SBJ

‘Then down the stream (to the north) (he) looked’

takki-t tap tʃeli-mpi-nt-a

downstream-LOC that shine-DUR-**EVID**-3SG.SBJ

‘In the North it shines, it seems.’

y-ʌ losi-ʌ ε:ti tʃeli-mpi-nt-a

water-ADJ devil-ADJ camp shine-DUR-**EVID**-3SG.SBJ

‘The water devil’s camp shines, it seems’ (VA 1941)

Evidential particle: *mita*

(4) ku:ti-n-tit pɔ:ri-n ken *mita* naj
wing-GEN-POSS.3PL tip-PL indeed **as if** so it is

‘the upper tips of their wings, it seems, so it is’

ori-ŋ ɲoɔm-ɛi-mp-ɔ:tin ken *mita* ni-ŋ
force-ADVZ glitter-PFV.INTENS-DUR-3PL indeed **as if** such-ADVZ

‘strongly glitter indeed, it seems, so it is.’

(5) i:l-ε:-mp-ɔ:tit ken *mita* naj
rise-PFV.INTENS-PSTN-3PL indeed **as if** so it is

‘(They) rose indeed it seems, so it is’ (RA 1982)

Evidential particle: mompa

(6) na qaj **mompa**
so what **they say**,

‘And so people say,’

tʃe:li-ti niʌtʃi-ŋ ap-qil-p-ati

sun-POSS.3SG such-ADVZ eat-PLOBJ-PSTN-3SG.OBJ

‘the sun so burnt (the ends of their wings)’ (RA 1982)

Past tenses: Simple past (PST) / Past narrative (PSTN)

Life story

(7) mat tʃe:lik-s-aŋ lo:si-ʌ ɲaro:qit
1SG be.born-PST-1SG devil-ADJ tundra-LOC

‘I was born in the Devil’s tundra’ (Kazakevich et al. 2008)

Fairy tale

(8) ili-mp-a ira imaqota-n-ti-sæ
live-PSTN-3SG man old.woman-GEN-POSS.3SG-INS

ki-t tʃi:onto:-t

river-GEN middle-LOC

‘There lived a man with his wife in the middle (flow) of the river’ (Kazakevich 2008)

Improper Past form (-s) in folklore texts translated from Russian

(3a) His mother went to the pike trap

тэпы-н эмы пичча-й кіньча-нты қәс-с-а
3SG-GEN mother pike-ADJ fish.trap-ILL go-PST-3SG.SBJ

(3b) His father went to shoot black grouse

эсы-ты күң чатт-ал-қа курр-ал-с-а
father-POSS.3SG black.grouse shoot-PLOBJ-INF go-SING-PST-3SG.SBJ

But:

(3c) His elder brother went to shoot black grouse-females

мәрқы чопа-ты нә-й кү-я
big brother-POSS.3SG female-ADJ black.grouse-DIM

пакты-мп-а

Run-PSTN-3SG.SBJ

Abbreviations

RA Victor Rudolf audio archive

VA Ludmila Varkovitskaya archive

Glosses:

ADJ adjectivizer, ADVZ adverbializer, DIM diminutive, DUR durative, ELAT elative, EP insertion, EVID evidential, GEN genitive, ILL illative, INF infinitive, INS instrumental, INTENS intensifier, IPFV imperfective, LOC locative, OBJ objective declension type, PFV perfective, PL plural, PLOBJ pluriobject, PLSBJ plurisubject, POSS possessive, PST past tense, PSTN past narrative, SBJ subjective declension type, SG singular, SING singulative.

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Thank you!