

K. F. Karjalainen's Khanty informants

As a scholarship holder of the Finno-Ugric Society based in Helsinki, K. F. Karjalainen (1871–1919) collected a significant amount of lexical, grammatical and folklore material during his fieldwork carried out between 1898 and 1902. The present study focuses on his native speaker informants, publishing those data that could be acquired about the Khanty assisting his work. The sources of these data were his handwritten notes on phonetics, his reports on his travels and his letters to his bride. The written accounts of researchers that were on fieldwork in Siberia at the same time (the Hungarian János Jankó and the Finnish Heikki Paasonen) can also be considered as indirect sources of information.

In the beginning of his fieldwork, Karjalainen took detailed notes on his Khanty assistants. Later on, he did not even record their names. We know of 12 names from the southern, 5 names from the eastern, and only one name from the northern dialect area. Throughout his fieldwork Karjalainen struggled with the problem of lack of suitable informants who would be able to communicate in Russian as well. Besides, joint work was often encumbered by the Khanty male informants' alcohol-related problems. Yet in spite of all these problems, Karjalainen could still establish a good relationship (almost friendship) based on mutual trust with several of his informants.

Keywords: K. F. Karjalainen, Siberia, Khanty, fieldwork, informant.

MÁRTA CSEPREGI

