

### **Éva Schmidt's fieldwork methodology during the collection of the Upper-Kazym educational material**

In 1991, Éva Schmidt recorded a considerable amount of prose material on a tape recorder from a 20-year-old Khanty girl. The texts represent the Upper Kazym subdialect. According to the agreement between the researcher and the speaker, the texts are intended for didactic purposes, i.e. they provide an introduction to the spoken Khanty language, as well as to many elements of everyday Khanty life, natural environment, beliefs, and tales. The audio recordings were transcribed, as well as translated into Hungarian by Éva Schmidt. The Khanty texts are accompanied by linguistic notes, which provide details of phonology, morphology, morphonology, syntax, and lexicology. In addition, they also draw attention to various manifestations of the influence of Russian. The commentaries accompanying the Hungarian translation provide mainly ethnographic information necessary for understanding, or supplementing what is heard.

This paper examines Éva Schmidt's interviewing technique used during this work. The original aim was to get the Khanty speaker to say whatever comes to mind about a given topic, without any influence or constraint. In doing so, especially at the beginning of the work, she interrupts her interviewee few times. Éva Schmidt's questions are usually so-called open questions (i.e. not yes/no questions), but, especially in the second half of the work, she also asked specific, targeted questions. In some cases, the fieldworker stayed little in the background and tried to get the desired information from the interviewee by asking repeated questions, with varying degrees of success.

Although Éva Schmidt later considered a different interviewing technique as optimal, her flexible interviewing technique is still remarkable in her fieldwork at the very beginning of the Beloyarsk mission. Since there is no evidence that she studied the methodology of fieldwork and interviewing techniques explicitly, we assume that her collection practices, which were in line with the recommendations of linguistic and dialect collections, sociological interviews, and interviews to collect folk knowledge and folk taxonomy, were developed intuitively on the basis of her own experience.

*Keywords: Éva Schmidt, Khanty, fieldwork, interview, question types*

ANDREA KACSKOVICS-REMÉNYI – MÁRIA SIPOS