



GRYUNBERG TSVETINOVICH, ALEKSANDR LEONOVICH

GRYUNBERG TSVETINOVICH, ALEKSANDR LEONOVICH (b. St. Petersburg, 1 March 1930; d. St. Petersburg, 3 March 1995), Russian linguist who specialized in Iranian languages. Gryunberg worked primarily on Tati, Baluchi, Pamiri, Nuristani, Dardic, and Sistani languages, collecting and publishing a large number of their folklore and ethnographic texts. His father was a man of letters and a literary critic, and his mother was a philologist and translator from Turkish and Serbo-Croatian. Gryunberg studied at the Oriental Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University, where he received his doctorate in 1963, was habilitated in 1974, and became full professor in 1983.

The most significant contribution of Gryunberg to Iranian studies is the five monographs he published on the Tati, Munji, Kati, Wakhi, and Pashto languages. The first one (1963) was the outcome of his research expeditions to the Tat regions of the Caucasus. It contains a description of the Tati grammatical forms supplemented by a number of Tati texts. During the same period (1959-60) he made trips to Sarak̄s in Turkmenistan to study the Sistani dialect.

From 1963 to 1967, he was working in Afghanistan as an interpreter for geologists and used the opportunity to study the languages of Badak̄šān and Nurestān. The result of his research was a series of studies on The languages of the Eastern Hindu Kush (*Yazyki vostochnogo gindukusha*), the first of which to



be published was on the Munji language (1972), based on the texts he had recorded in 1966-67 in the Monjān valley of Afghanistan. His other extensive essay on the Munji language appeared in the collection “Fundamentals of Iranian Linguistics” (1987). The second book in the series, prepared with the collaboration of I. M. Steblin-Kamenskiĭ, was on the Wakhi language (1976) and, similar to the previous works, based mainly on the texts recorded in Tajik and Afghan Badakṣān. A French translation appeared in 1988.

Gryunberg’s work on Kati, the main language of Nurestān, may be considered the best in the series (1980). His monograph on Pashtu is the first analytical study of the grammatical system of this language done according to the principles of modern linguistics. He is also the co-author, with D. I. Edelman, of the comprehensive study on Pashto, including the chapter on Pashto historical phonology, in “Fundamentals of Iranian linguistics.” During the 1970s and 1980s he was engaged in the study of Baluchi language and literature and wrote an article on the Dardic language (1971).

Gryunberg taught Pashto, Dari Persian, and Baluchi and the ethnography of the Afghans at the Oriental Faculty of St.-Petersburg State University, where he had been a professor since 1983, and was also the organizer and president of the Seminar of the St.-Petersburg Afghanologists.

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