

THE HISTORY OF TEACHING OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES IN RUSSIA

Aida R. Fattakhova¹, Nelly V. Gromova² and Ramil T. Juzmuhametov¹

The article highlights the history of studying of African languages in Russia, since the late 18th century to the present day, including the basic information about the staff, educational institutions, scientific and educational publications on Africa. The main centers of African studies previously were in Saint Petersburg and Moscow, as well as in Kharkow and Kazan universities. Nowadays Kazan Federal University is becoming the third center in Russia where African languages are taught. This article also highlights a problem of lack of modern researches on African languages issue and teaching books of these languages taking into consideration that Russia today has its own interests in East, West and South African regions, and at the same time is experiencing staff shortage for specialists with knowledge of various African languages. The article presents changes in approaches regarding the study of African culture and its problems in modern Russia, and shows the need to create a new attitude in organizing of teaching of African languages: opening new centers of African studies all over Russia, not only in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, taking into account growing relations between Russian regions and African countries. The materials of the article may be useful in preparing of new materials and methods for teaching the African languages, as well as in the development of training courses in various aspects of African life: "Literature of African peoples", "African Culture" etc. which need the knowledge of African languages.

Keywords: History, Education, Africa, African studies, African languages.

INTRODUCTION

The contacts of the peoples of Russia and Africa have a long tradition. In the pre-revolutionary period (before 1917), the Russian scientists-travellers made a significant contribution to the study of geography, flora and fauna of Africa, history, economy, languages, culture of African peoples, as well as in a number of scientific problems of the continent. And they also introduced the African history and culture to the Russian public. Russian scientists-africanists, along with their foreign colleagues, contributed to the creation of written languages and literature in the national languages of the peoples of Africa.

Training of African national cadres in Russian universities and academic centers of Russia is also of a great importance. In these conditions, the importance of studying of African languages, as part of a large research of Africa is sufficiently increasing. This article is devoted to the history of the study of African languages in Russia.

¹ Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia. *E-mail:* gaidaf@mail.ru.

² Department of African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

METHODS

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are:

- to consider the main stages of the study of African languages since the late 18th century to the present time;
- to identify the main trends and concerns in relation to the African linguistics in various academic centers in Russia;
- to determine the prospects of the study of African languages in modern Russia.

Theoretical and methodological basis of the study

In our research we relied on archival and bibliographic data, devoted to the study of African languages in Russia at various stages of its development. We considered all of the major scientific and educational publications on African languages, which were published in Russia and in the Soviet Union, as well as the survey works of the domestic (Russian) Africanists.

Chronological framework of the study

This research covers all the major periods of studying of African languages in our country: 1) starting from the 18th century until 1917; 2) from 1917 to the early 30-ies; 3) in the 1930s; 4) in the 1940s; 5) in the 1950-70-ies; 6) from the 1960s to the present.

RESULTS

Main guidelines of African researches and Teaching of African languages in Russia

1. Before 1917. The study of African languages or, more precisely, the first acquaintance with them began in the end of the 18th century when the Russian Academy of Sciences prepared for publication the “Comparative dictionary of all languages and dialects disposed by alphabetical order” (St. Petersburg, 1770-1791). This edition contained fragmentary information from 33 African languages, which is a kind of not-numerous lists of words or a small dictionary for languages such as Coptic, Shilh, Fula, Wolof, Ibo, Swahili, Hottentot, etc (Olderogge, 1977).

More interesting from a scientific point of view, were the first in the history of Russian and world Africanistics dictionary entries on the languages of Central Africa (such as Madi, Barambo, Zande, Mangbetu, Bangba, Gobbu, Kale, Ndakko, etc.) collected by the Russian traveler and geographer Vasily Vasilyevich Yunker (1840-1892), he published them in 1889 (Olderogge, 1977). The linguistic materials

of V.V. Yunker remain unique also in our time because of scarcity of data on the languages of this region. In prerevolutionary Russia, even some practical benefits for some African languages were published, in particular, on the most famous in Russia Amharic language (Ashinov, 1888). In 1882 Hans Tiysman in the city of Tallinn published for the first time in our country the text in the language of Galla (Oromo), and another Estonian missionary Oviir Ewald (1873 - 1896), published in 1896 an article in German about the structure of the verb in the language of Swahili (Tiismann, 1882).

As for the teaching of African languages, in the early 19th century, the general statute of Russian universities introduced teaching of the "Biblical and the Muslim East" languages. The Charter of the Imperial Russian universities was compiled under the patronage of Nicholas I and, this "common" Charter, was spread to four universities in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan and Kharkov.

Russian researchers have attracted attention mainly for the ancient languages of Africa: Ancient Egyptian, Coptic, Ancient Ethiopic - Ge'ez. In 1829 Boris A. Dorn (1805 - 1881) began teaching Ge'ez at the University of Kharkov. The further development of the Ethiopian Philology connected with St. Petersburg, where it soon moved. In 1887, Oscar E. Lemm (1856-1918) in the University of St. Petersburg began teaching the Coptic language, and his follower Boris Turaev (1868-1920) was also engaged in the Ge'ez language teaching. The scientific activity of Pavel K. Kokovtsov (1861-1941) and Ignatij Y. Krachkovskii (1883-1953), two famous semitologists, also was concerned to the study of Ancient Ethiopic language (Olderogge, 1977).

Thus, the first stage in the history of African language teaching, in Russia before 1917, was remarkable by creation of a national school of Egyptology and Coptic Studies, which took honourable place in the world science. Much attention was also devoted to the study of the language of Ge'ez and the Ethiopian Philology. Other African languages were not introduced to the academic community.

The next stage in the history of African language teaching was more significant in the view of number of studied African languages.

The Soviet period in Teaching of African languages

The systematic study of the living languages of Africa and their teaching in universities belongs to the Soviet period, when our country has considerably increased interest in history, culture and languages of the peoples of Africa. The first domestic linguists who began to study the languages of Swahili and Hausa was Dmitry Olderogge (1905-1987). After graduating from the Ethno-Linguistic Department of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Petrograd (St. Petersburg), he was hired by the Museum of Ethnography and Anthropology, and in the 1927-1928 he worked in museums in Germany, Netherlands and Belgium

and also studied African languages, attending seminars of Professor D. Westerman. The topics of the first publications of D. Olderogge, as well as of the other of his colleagues in Leningrad, were concerned to domestic Egyptology (Olderogge, 1929; Snegirev, 1930).

Teaching of African languages in 1930s

Dmitry Olderogge organized in Soviet Russia the teaching and learning of the most important languages of Africa located to the south of the Sahara. In 1931, when organizing a department of Black Africa in the Oriental Institute of Leningrad, D. Olderogge began teaching the languages of Swahili and Hausa. Subsequently, the very first dictionaries of these two major African languages edited by D. Olderogge were published in our country: "Swahili-Russian dictionary" (Moscow, 1961) and "Housa-Russian dictionary" (Moscow, 1963).

Due to the reorganization of the Oriental Institute, the teaching of African languages was discontinued. But in 1934 (note 1), in the Institute of History and Philosophy and Linguistics of the University of Leningrad a new Department of Afro-Asiatic languages and literatures was organized, and African languages were which taught there. D. Olderogge taught Bantu languages - Swahili and Zulu. And Nikolai V. Yushmanov (1896-1946), a prominent Soviet linguist, taught the Hausa and Amharic languages, as well as he gave an introductory course in African linguistics. And also, he first in our country prepared the tutorials on these languages: "A Brief Grammar of the Hausa Language" (1935), "The Structure of the Amharic Language" (1936), "The Structure of the Hausa language" (1937) (Zhukov, 1983).

In the same year, 1934, at the Leningrad Institute of Language and Thought of the Academy of Sciences, at the sector of Afro-Asiatic linguistics, a group for the study of African languages was established. N.V. Yushmanov, I.L. Snegiryov (1907-1946), and P.A. Alekseev worked in this group.

In Moscow, in 1930s, the African languages were researched and studied at the Linguistic Commission of the African Room at the Research Association for National and Colonial Problems Studies. Professor Georgy Danilov (1897-1937) was the head of the Language Commission organized in 1932-1933s. G. Danilov, P.S. Kuznetsov (1899-1968), I.I. Potehin (1903-1964), A.Z. Zusmanovich (1902-1965), and I.K. Rihter studied in the Swahili language group. Jomo Kenyatta (the future first president of Kenya), which studied in Moscow at that time, was the practical teacher of Swahili in this group. Later, probably in 1933, G.K. Danilov and P.S. Kuznetsov began to study another African language, the Vai, which is one of Mande languages.

By the end of 1933 G.K. Danilov prepared texts in Swahili (75 typed pages), which were included as an appendix in the "Small Russian-Swahili dictionary. 5000 words most frequently used in the Russian language and political literature". The

dictionary was accompanied with a brief grammar reference written by P.S. Kuznetsov. The dictionary was prepared for publication in 1934, but was not published.

In the early 30s in Soviet Russia there has already been a rather large group of Africanists-linguists, mainly in Moscow and Leningrad, and due to this, in January 1934, in Moscow, the African Studies' first national conference took place. Officially, it was called "Meeting on African languages of the Research Association for National and Colonial Problems Studies", but due the number of participants, topics and quality of the reports it was in fact the first Conference of Africanists in Russia, which was attended not only by linguists, but also by historians and ethnographers.

Three reports by A.Z. Zusmanovich, I.I. Potekhin and E. Shiyk were devoted to the "current political problems", the other 10 ones were on various issues of African linguistics. They are the following: P.S. Kuznetsov "The state of the study of African languages", D.A. Olderogge "The spread of indigenous languages and the language policy of the imperialists", G.K. Danilov "Perspectives, objectives and methods of the study of African languages", I.L. Snegirev "The classes of nouns in the Zulu language", D.A. Olderogge "The classes of nouns in Swahili", P.S. Kuznetsov "Expression of object relations in Swahili", G.K. Danilov "Vocabulary and phonetics of Swahili in relation to Eastern Bantu languages", N.V. Yushmanov "The Languages of Hausa-Fulani and their place among the Western African languages", N.V. Yushmanov "The problems of the alphabet, spelling and transcription of African languages" (note 2). Almost all the reports processed in the form of articles were included in the collected articles book entitled "Africa and its peoples and languages", are now being kept in the archives of the Russian Center for Contemporary History Documents Preservation and Study.

Although the African languages in these years were not taught in the universities of Moscow, but it is noteworthy that the participants of this meeting adopted a plan for creation of new dictionaries and scientific and practical manuals for study of African languages. In particular, in accordance with this plan, by January 1, 1935, dictionaries of "the contemporary socio-economic terminology" in the Hausa language (N.V. Yushmanov), in the languages of Zulu and Xhosa (I.L. Snegirev), in Sotho language (D.A. Olderogge) and Swahili (G.K. Danilov) had to be prepared. In addition, it was planned to write within 2-3 years a grammar manual of Zulu language and to create a Zulu-English-Russian and a Russian-English-Zulu dictionary (I.L. Snegirev) and a grammar manual of Swahili (D.A. Olderogge) (note 3). So, in the 30s it was planned to create a material-and-technical basis for teaching of African languages in Moscow. But for several reasons, these plans could not come true. But maybe that manuscripts or authors' collected materials are stored in the archives till now.

The active work of the Moscow Africanists-linguists continued even in 1935, although its main organizer G.K. Danilov late in 1934 was expelled from the Bolsheviks Party for the “Trotskyist propaganda” and in 1937 he was executed by shooting. In the journal of “Revolutionary Vostok” in 1934 it was announced that in the near future the two works by G.K. Danilov, “The Languages of the Foreign East” (editing) and “The Small Russian-Swahili dictionary” was being prepared to print. But the next year the publishing house announced the publication of only “Collection of a N 1. The Languages of the East”, without mentioning the name of G.K. Danilov (The Revolutionary East, 1934). So, G.K. Danilov did not participate at the Second Africanists meeting in 1935, and P.S. Kuznetsov bewildered apologized at the end of his report on the pronouns in the Vai language: “I was very brief, and the conciseness of my report is partly explained by the fact that I’ve made my report on this language unexpectedly, as (12) initially we had to speak together covering different aspects” (Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History, storage unit 41).

At the second meeting of Africanists, held in February 1935 in Moscow, there were only “two linguistic reports: 1) on the Zulu language, and 2) on the Vai language” (Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History, storage unit 40). The first report was made by I.L. Snegirev, and the second one was made by P.S. Kuznetsov, although his co-author, no doubt, was disgraced G.K. Danilov. As for the language of Vai, it should be noted that G.K. Danilov drew the sketch of this language on the following scheme: history of language, history of research, grammatical structure, vocabulary, phonetics, graphics, accompanied by a small Russian-Wai and Wai-Russian dictionary, as well as texts in the language of Vai (Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History, storage unit 85) This essay is the first (and the only) in the domestic African studies, giving us a fairly complete picture of the lexical - grammatical features of the Vai language and its peculiar writing. The essay on the Vai language compiled by G.K. Danilov seems more interesting to us because the author used the “field” materials. When studying this language G.K. Danilov and I.I. Kuznetsov worked with an informant from Liberia (note 4).

All above-named G.K. Danilov’s works on African linguistics were stored in archives and have never been published. P.S. Kuznetsov published three papers on selected main issues of the grammar of the languages of Swahili and Vai, which, as he said, were the result of his African studies (Kuznetsov, 1935, 1959, 1965). After the tragic events of the late 30s he stopped doing his African researches, but he had kept his interest in it, and in the 60s, as a professor of the Moscow State University, the Department of Structural and Applied Linguistics, Philology Faculty, he read a course on typological studies of Swahili (Alpatov, 1963) and conducted

lessons with post-graduate students-linguists at the Institute of Africa of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR involving the illustrative materials from the African languages.

The inventory of African languages, that were researched and taught in the Institutes of Leningrad, was much more wider. Leningrad Africanists in the 30s has published series of articles on specific issues concerning the African linguistics, in particular, on the south-eastern Bantu languages (Zulu, Xhosa, etc.), the Semitic languages and the literature of Ethiopia and others (Snegirev, 1933, 1935; Yushmanov, 1934, 1936.). The linguists who worked in the Group of African languages at the Institute of Language and Thought, for the first time in our country prepared and published a special collection of papers on various aspects of African linguistics named "Africana" (Africana, 1937). The collection includes three articles by I.L. Snegirev, mainly based on the South African Zulu, Xhosa and Sotho (Snegirev, 1937) (incidentally, his informant was Albert Nzula, the member of the Central Council of Profintern (International of Labor Unions), the representative of the revolutionary trade unions in South Africa), and two articles on phonetics by N.V. Yushmanov (Yushmanov, 1937) with involving the examples from various African languages (Bantu West African, Hottentot, Amharic, Tigrigna, etc.). The most of the collection takes a review on the works of foreign Africanists written by N.V. Yushmanov, I.L. Snegirev and D.A. Olderogge. Also in this collected papers reviews of foreign periodicals are given (the journal "Africa", "Bantu Studies", "Mitteilungen des Seminars für Orientalische Sprachen", "Zeitschrift für Eingeborenen Sprachen"), the bibliography of foreign works on African languages available in the library of the Institute of Language and Thought, acquisitions of the library in 1934-1935. The articles by I.L. Snegirev and N.V. Yushmanov received a positive response in the review of the well-known South African linguist K. Doka.

In 1930s a number of reviews of foreign dictionaries and grammar manuals of the African languages made by D.A. Olderogge were published (Olderogge, 1934). In 1937, he has also written an article "The determination of time and space in Bantu languages" interesting due to its theoretical value (Olderogge, 1937). N.V. Yushmanov in these years continued to work on the problem of alphabetic systems in African languages (Yushmanov, 1940).

In 1939 the first students-africanists graduated from the African subdivision of the Afro-Asiatic languages department of the Leningrad University (note 5). The students of the Leningrad University studied Bantu languages, Swahili and Zulu, which were taught by D.A. Olderogge, and Semitic-Hamitic languages, Hausa and Amharic, which were taught by professor N.V. Yushmanov. The graduates of 1939 then engaged in teaching and research work in the field of African languages, history and ethnography of the peoples of Africa in various research institutes and universities of the Soviet Union and abroad.

Thus, at this stage of development of the Soviet African linguistics, linguists were not only limited to theoretical studies of African languages, but they began to teach some of the most major modern African languages.

Teaching of African languages in 1940s

Being interrupted by the World War II, the teaching and learning of African languages resumed in 1944 when the Faculty of Oriental Studies was recreated in the Leningrad State University and the Department of Egyptology and African studies Department was organized. The head of the department was Professor N.V. Yushmanov, and after his death in 1946, Professor D.A. Olderogge became the head of this department. The Department continued teaching the major African languages, Swahili, Hausa, Amharic, Zulu. Tamara L. Tyutryumova, the disciple of N.V. Yushmanov, taught Amharic and Hausa, and since 1947 Irina Kupalova (Zhdanova, Stroganova), the graduate of this Department, taught Swahili and Zulu. She also prepared the first in our country tutorial, the reader book on Swahili (Stroganova, 1950).

Academician I.Yu. Krachkovsky gave an introductory course in Ethiopian philology at the department in the 1948-49 academic year. Later on the basis of this course of lectures a book under the same title was published (Krachkovsky, 1955). The course of the ancient Egyptian language was given by Professor M.E. Matye, and a course of the Coptic language was given by Professor P.V. Ernshgedt.

Teaching of African languages in 1950s-70s

In 1930s-60s, the Department of African Studies of Leningrad University was the only department in the Soviet Union where African languages were taught, the foundations of teaching methodology and study of African languages were laid here. In essence, the Leningrad school of Africanists was established under the supervision of D.A. Olderogge. The first manuals and textbooks of African languages were published here (Olderogge, 1954; Tyutryumova, 1956), the training programs for major languages were revised and expanded, the experience of the whole scientific work was summed up (note 6), the first specialists for the department and for the other research institutes and universities were prepared here, where the work in the field of developing African Studies began (Zhukov, 1983). Thus, in the Leningrad branch of the Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, a linguistic group of the African Sector under the leadership of D.A. Olderogge was organized. This group worked on a dictionary of Swahili and Hausa. The graduates of the department became teachers of African languages in various higher education institutions in Moscow. In 1957 the teaching of Swahili language started at the Institute of International Relations of Moscow (MGIMO) (I.G. Fedorova), and later, in 1960, the language of Hausa (V.V. Laptuhin) added. In 1957 such Africanists-linguists like N.V. Potehina, N.I.

Gorshkova, O.N. Zaytseva began their research activity at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In 1960 the teaching of Swahili began at the Institute of Oriental Languages (now the Institute of Asian and African countries) at MSU (N.V. Ohotina).

In Leningrad school a scientific (or academic) approach in learning of African languages dominated, because such an approach was a means for reading and studying of written texts. The graduates of the Leningrad Department of African Studies, who began teaching work in Moscow, made a significant contribution to the renewal of the approaches of studying of African languages, with an emphasis on practical language acquisition, due to the objectives of Soviet foreign policy at that time. In their work, the scientific and practical trends mutually enriched and complemented each other.

In 1950s, the scientific work in the field of African linguistics was conducted mainly in Leningrad, where the main cadres of Africanist-linguists were focused. The topics of the works of that time reflects the traditional scientific direction for the African studies: the issues of nouns classification in the language of Bantu (Stroganova, 1952), the origin of languages, in particular, of the Hausa language (Olderogge, 1953, 1956), the writings of African peoples (Olderogge, 1954, 1958), the description of some African languages (Sobchenko, 1959; Olderogge, 1954) and characteristics of their grammatical structure (Pilytsikova, 1957; Ohotina, 1960) and others. At the same time some new languages were involved in the sphere of scientific interests of Soviet Africanistics, i.e. the language of Yoruba (Demyankov, 1960). A special collection of articles "African ethnographic collection 3. Linguistics", released in 1959 under the editorship of D.A. Olderogge, was devoted to similar problems. The collection included articles of Leningrad and Moscow linguists in various African languages such as Vai (Kuznetsov, 1959), Hausa (Osnitskaya, 1959), Zulu (Okhotina, 1959), Swahili (Misyugin, Yakovleva, Myachina 1959), Amharic (Titov, 1959), the languages of the Belgian Congo (Olderogge, 1959), etc.

Thus, beginning from 1930s to the early 1960s, the great interest in studying of the African languages has noticeably increased in our country, the range of researches significantly expanded, the theoretical study of African languages has been improved and became more profound. The list of languages taught in the universities has also increased compared to the first stage, before the Revolution of 1917, and in general the African linguistics in our country has come to a new round of its development.

Teaching of African languages in modern Russia

African studies in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Currently the languages of African continent are taught in the departments of African Studies of both Moscow University and St. Petersburg University. Mainly the languages of Swahili,

Afrikaans, Hausa and Amharic are being taught of modern educators, scientists-linguists having based on the experience of previous generations of researchers in African languages, make efforts to continue studying of these languages and providing with teaching methodic and manuals. So, with among the fundamental works in the field of African linguistics, in 1995 a book by Professor N.V. Gromova and Professor N.V. Okhotina "The Theoretical Grammar of Swahili" (Gromova & Okhotina, 1995) was published. This book presents a theoretical description of the morphonology and the grammar of this language. At the present stage mainly the Moscow specialists work on the development of teaching aids on African languages. In recent years, several books on the languages of Swahili, Afrikaans, Hausa were published. In 2000 "*The Tutorial of the Afrikaans language: Beginners course*" by A.K. Ignatenko (Ignatenko) was published. In 2004 "*The Tutorial of the Swahili language*" by N.V. Gromova and N.T. Petrenko (Gromova & Petrenko, 2004) was published. The manual makes everyone possible to learn this African language by without assistance or help from others. This tutorial is also remarkable with the fact that it was translated into English by a disciple of N.V. Gromova, which currently uses it in teaching of Swahili in Tanzania, thereby continuing the traditions of national language teaching methodology. In 2012 the "Swahili-Russian Dictionary" (Gromova & Myachina) was published. The authors of the dictionary N.V. Gromova, Myachina, and N.T. Petrenko collected about 30,000 entries, word-combinations, proverbs of the modern Swahili language. In 2006 Yu.G. Suetina prepared a book "*The Tutorial of the Hausa language*" (Suetina, 2006).

For a long time the teaching of African languages in Russia was geographically limited to Moscow and St. Petersburg. However, the development of regional economic ties with African countries, has identified the additional need for specialists with the knowledge of African languages.

Teaching of African languages in Kazan. The idea of teaching of African languages in the Kazan Federal University was born thanks to the economic ties of the Republic of Tatarstan, a subject of Russian Federation, with African continent. The Kazan University was one of the largest centers of Oriental Studies in Russia since the early 19th century, where Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Tatar, Mongol, Tibetan and other languages were studied and taught. The African languages, however, were not taught at that time, but nonetheless, a certain interest in Africa has always existed here. In 1815 the Ethnographic Museum was founded in the University of Kazan. The Ethnographic Museum takes immense pride in its African collection, which presents a variety of exhibits: masks, musical instruments, combat and hunting weapons of tribes of Cameroon, Sudan, Uganda, Somalia and other African countries, as well as traditional African tribal clothing.

In 2011 the Department of Indo-Iranian and African languages was established at the Kazan University in order to train highly qualified specialists with the knowledge of Indian, Iranian and African languages. The Department prepared

and conducted the “9th School for Young Africanists” in 2011 in Kazan. The scientists and graduate students from Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Yaroslavl met in Kazan to discuss the issues concerning to the African Studies in Russia and abroad. In 2012 the teaching of Swahili for the first time began at the University of Kazan with an invaluable assistance and help of Professor N.V. Gromova (from Moscow University), well-known Africanist in Russia, who came for several times to Kazan to give courses on Swahili and Introduction to African Studies, and thus laid the basis of teaching of African languages in Kazan.

Today, the first scientific works of Kazan scientists dedicated to the languages of Africa appeared, in which the authors A.R. Fattakhova (“Leksika arabskogo yazy’ka v tatarskom yazy’ke i suaxili: morfologicheskoe osvoenie”, 2013) and R.T. Juzmuhametov (“Izuchenie foneticheskoy systemy’ yazy’ka afrikaans v sravnenii s tatarskim yazy’kom”, 2015) showed interest in the comparative study of characteristics of the languages of Swahili and Afrikaans in comparison with the local language of the Kazan Tatars (Phonetics and Morphology).

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

The study of African languages, as an important part of African studies, is crucial for the European civilization and Russia in particular.

Today, Africa is booming. African States intensely absorb modern scientific, technical and socio-political achievements. Today, Africa has established a network of national research institutions and universities. Many African countries are organizing their own research, which contributes to the development of the world’s scientific and technological progress. The development of scientific and cultural ties with Russia, which has its national interests on African continent, also helps greatly to this task.

Many issues, related to Africa, have not been solved. However, some aspects of the problem are still under-researched. Thus, despite the positive experience we have in the Past, the scientific literature on this issue is represented mainly by the Conference Proceedings and a few monographs and learning books for African languages. We in Russia definitely lack author monographs, devoted to the study of African languages, their characteristics, in a situation of increasing interest to African problems.

There has been very little fundamental research on the issue of teaching African languages, as well as very little modern dictionaries of African languages. Research works we have today can be narrowed down to those ones were created some 15-20 years or more earlier. The languages are constantly changing and developing. Systemic studies of them are small in number, both in Russia and abroad.

This study examines the situation in studying and teaching of African languages in modern Russia, the issue that was not researched in previous studies.

This study, conducted in accordance with the objectives and tasks of the research, allows us to come to the following conclusions.

1. The study of African languages in Russia has a complicated past, an interesting present and a great future in Russia, taking into consideration the growing ties with East, West and South African countries.
2. The new centers of African studies have been appeared in modern Russia. For example, Kazan Federal University started preparing of cadres with the knowledge of Swahili and Afrikaans.
3. The comparative study of Swahili and Afrikaans in comparison with the Tatar languages seems to be a fruitful field in researching the Genesis of languages and peoples of Eurasia and Africa, as well as their intercultural interaction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The results and conclusions of this study can be used in scientific researches on African languages phonetics (Afrikaans) and Morphology (Swahili) and i.e. islamic culture's influence on Swahili, as well as in problem of teaching of African languages in Russia.

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Notes

1. Academic I.Yu. Krachkovsky unlike generally recognized point of view calls an earlier date, "In 1933 the Afro-Asiatic Department of Philology was created at the University and Yushmanov was selected as its first secretary" (see Krachkovskij, I.Yu. (1958). *Izbranny'e sochineniya*. T.V (p. 451). Moskva-Leningrad.). D.A.Olderogge also points this year in his autobiography when enumerating his jobs: "1933, the Leningrad State University, the Faculty of Philology" (see Arxiv LO RAN, f. 142, anketny'j list 106).
2. The Conference Report, signed by initials G.D. (undoubtedly G.K.Danilov - I.G.), was published in: *Xronika*. (1934), *Revolucionny'j Vostok*. 2.
3. More details about the meeting and its materials, see: Gromova, N.V. (1994). "Maly'j russko-suaxili slovar'" G.K.Danilova. *Vostok*, 2.
4. Kuznetsov, P.S. *Avtobiografiya* (typewritten version of his manuscript) (p. 75).
5. The first group of 34 students-Africanists was adopted in August 1934 at the Leningrad Institute of linguistics and literature, which later became part of the Leningrad State University as the Faculty of Philology (see *Vospominaniya S.Milyavskoj "Nas uchili my'slit"*. Leningradskij Universitet. 20.05.1983.)
6. The first Ph.D. thesis on the African linguistics in our country was the dissertation by I.L. Snegireva "Foreign words in the modern Zulu" (the opponents: Academician V.V. Struve and Professor N.V. Yushmanov). The dissertation was defended in August 1, 1935 (archive

LOO RAS , f. 77 , op. 2 , # 29-31, op. 5, # 261, 476). The number of postwar theses submitted for the degree of candidate of philology were much bigger. Lets name just the first ones: Kupalova, I.P. (1946). *Process razvitiya imennoj klassifikacii v yazy'kax bantu*. Leningrad; Pily'cikova, N.N. (1953). *Glagol'naya sistema yazy'ka xausa (o sootnoshenii kategorii vida i vremeni)*. Leningrad; Okhotina, N.V. (1956). *Lokativnaya forma v yazy'ke zulu*. Leningrad.

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