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Maja Ivanovna Čeremisina was born in Kiev (the Ukrainian republic) in 1924. She is a Russian scholar who, after Ubrjatov's death in Novosibirsk, took on the responsibility of continuing research on the syntax of Siberian indigenous peoples' languages. Under her guidance, 33 scholars have investigated the syntactic structures of their mother tongues (Altai, Alutor, Buryat (Buriat), Kazakh, Ket, Khakas, Khanty, Kirghiz, Nganasan, Selkup, Shor, Tuva (Tuv), and others). Most of them have undertaken 3-year postgraduate courses at the university in Novosibirsk.

Čeremisina received her secondary and higher education in Moscow. Her first years after secondary school were during World War II. On the first day of aerial bombardment in Moscow, her parents' house was completely destroyed, and her mother was killed.

Much later, Čeremisina was educated at the University of Moscow, where she mastered literature and the Russian language and later undertook 3-year postgraduate courses at Moscow University. After graduation, she taught many subjects in Russian philology at university departments in Tomsk, Tula, Beijing (China), and Novosibirsk. Čeremisina obtained her M.A. in 1960 and her Ph.D. in 1974. Her doctoral thesis was entitled 'Complex comparative constructions in the Russian language.' Before Čeremisina's doctoral defense, Ubrjatova asked her to read the manuscript of a book devoted to the analysis of complex sentences in the Yakut language. Čeremisina read the manuscript three times, trying to comprehend Yakut, the frame of mind of its speakers, and their way of expressing themselves, and also trying to penetrate into Ubrjatova's way of thinking, which gradually opened itself up to her. Her main field of endeavor thereafter became Siberian indigenous languages.

In 1975, Čeremisina took charge of a project based on comparative and typological research into the structure of complex sentences in the languages of Siberian indigenous peoples. The starting point of the investigation was one of the postulates propounded by Ubrjatova in her monograph on Yakut syntax – that Turkic languages employ similar language means to establish links between both words and units of higher levels (phrases and sentences). Testing the postulate on other Altaic languages became the goal of Čeremisina and her disciples.

Čeremisina founded a new Department of Languages and Folklore of the Indigenous Siberian Peoples at the university in Novosibirsk.

At present, Čeremisina and her team are working at the typology of a simple sentence in Altaic languages. She has published five monographs, nine textbooks, and 183 papers.

See also: Altaic Languages; Turkic Languages; Yakut.

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