

**Nadeljaev, Vladimir Mikhailovich (1912–1985)**

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Vladimir Mikhajlovič (Mikhailovich) Nadeljaev was born in 1912 in Khabarovsk, and died in 1985 in Novosibirsk. He was a versatile Russian scholar who had an impressive command of a number of Turkic, Mongolian, and Tungusic languages. Under his guidance, 130 higher education specialists were educated in the Tuvan (Tuvian), Altai, Sakha (Yakut), Buryat (Buriat), Mongol (Mongolian), and Kalmyk (Kalmyk-Oirat) languages, as well as experimental phonetics.

It was in East Siberia that he received his primary and secondary education. At the age of 21, he was offered a teaching position at the newly organized school for Dolgan children in Taimyr (a polar peninsular in North Siberia). He accepted the post, and for the first time in his life Nadeljaev encountered a people whose language did not have any records and was passed from one generation to another only orally. Over a span of five years the Dolgan language, which Nadeljaev wrote down and learned, became for him a unique means of survival and access to the traditional lifestyle of reindeer breeders. Nadeljaev retained a lifelong attachment to the Dolgan people. He was further educated at the University of Leningrad (present St. Petersburg), where he studied Mongolian languages under Academician Kozin, experimental phonetics under Academician Ščerba, Professors Zinder and Matusevič, Tungusic languages under Professor Cincius, and Turkic languages under Professor Malov. His years at the university fell during the Leningrad blockade period during World War II. As Nadeljaev was very short-sighted, he could not fight at the front and stayed in Leningrad through the whole year of its blockade: he took part in civil defense, studied, and helped people around him. At that time, he was 176 cm. tall and weighed 48 kg.

In 1958, Nadeljaev became one of the authors and editors of *The old Turkic dictionary (drevne-tjurkskij slivár)*, published in 1969. In 1966, Nadeljaev was invited to work at the Siberian Branch of the USSR

Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk, where he founded a new Laboratory of Experimental Phonetics. With the help of laboratory equipment, more than 30 Siberian languages and dialects were tested and researched by laboratory workers and postgraduate students. Nadeljaev worked out the theoretical basis for all investigations at the laboratory. His theory of articulatory bases greatly contributes to the theory of human race and language origin, general phonetics, etc. It holds that the articulatory-acoustic base is a system of articulatory skills that was historically built up at the earliest stages of a particular ethnic group development and is not a language evolution. Considering the articulatory-acoustic base as an ethnological characteristic that might serve as a potential historical source in the reconstruction of ethnic processes, Nadeljaev advanced and justified a series of hypotheses about the ethnogenesis of North Asian peoples. He also put forward a hypothesis about the system of consonants in the Uyghur-Oghuz languages of the Eastern branch of Turkic languages, with a contrast in the degree of tensivity: strong vs. weak vs. superweak. A similar system has been retained in several central regions of Mongolia, and this fact became one of the grounds to forward the hypothesis about the Turkic substratum in the Khalkha-Mongolian (Halh Mongolian) language. Scholars also credit Nadeljaev with deciphering a series of messages left in runic script by the Siberian Turkic peoples. Nadeljaev received many honors, including the title of Honored Scientist of the Tuvan Republic, the Medal for Leningrad Defense, and the Badge of Honor.

See also: Turkic Languages.

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