

# A Short Sketch of Tajik Grammar

by  
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by  
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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

The translation of this grammar of Tajik represents the first appearance of a grammatical statement for this language in English. The original appeared as a supplement (pp. 531-570) to the Rahimi-Uspenskaya Tajik-Russian Dictionary (Moscow, 1954). The work of translation was supported under the contract No. 8888 between the U. S. Office of Education and the Department of Near Eastern Studies of The University of Michigan, according to terms of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. There are three other translations of Russian grammars of Iranian languages (Ossetic, Pashto, Persian) that will form part of this collection. We wish to record our thanks for the support from the Office of Education which made this work possible.

These translations were prepared for several reasons. First, they make available in a language more accessible to Western scholars than Russian, grammatical analyses that are of considerable interest to Iranists, Indo-Europeanists, and linguists in general. Second, the translated grammars will provide scholars with specific information on some languages hitherto unavailable in any Western European languages. Third, and perhaps most important, these translations will offer linguists an opportunity to gauge something of how Russian linguists were writing grammars in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Thus, even where these translations are of languages already well-documented by recent work in Western languages (e. g., Persian and Pashto), accessibility to Russian work on these languages provides interesting alternative analyses.

Publication of these Russian grammars in English by no means implies approval of the grammars. In fact, the editor (and translator(s) ) have serious reservations about much that appears in these analyses. They are, however, offered to students of linguistics for the reasons indicated above.

The translation was carried out by the undersigned, and was then checked thoroughly by Dr. Andreas Koutsoudas and Mr. Steven P. Hill whose work is here gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due Mr. David Francis who prepared the table of contents and

applied the paragraph numbering system which was not in the original. All Tajik forms are given in the Cyrillic orthography since it seemed superfluous to transliterate or transcribe into Roman, what is essentially a rather simple set of letters for anyone to learn.

We are especially grateful to the editor of the International Journal of American Linguistics for accepting this work for publication, and to the director and staff of the Research Center for Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics for carrying out the difficult task of composition. The undersigned accepts full responsibility for errors or misinterpretations that may occur in the text.

June 1963  
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Herbert H. Paper

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