

TATAR MANUAL

Descriptive Grammar and Texts
with
A Tatar-English Glossary

by

Nicholas Poppe

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PREFACE

The present book is designed as a manual of the Tatar language. It consists of three parts. Part one contains a descriptive grammar written along the same lines as my Buriat Grammar (Indiana University Publications, Volume 2 of the Uralic and Altaic Series, Bloomington, Indiana, 1960) which follows, in plan and method, the Hungarian Grammar by Robert A. Hall, Jr. (Vol. 20, No. 4, Suppl. to Language, Journal of the Linguistic Society of America, Language Monograph No. 21, 1944).

I take the opportunity to mention that, at the time of writing this grammar, I discussed some problems of Tatar phonology with Professor Shirō Hattori, and I am glad to state that he accepted my treatment of Tatar [ī, ū, ū] which occur in final position and in the noninitial syllables as /ey, ew, iw/ respectively.

The second part contains a number of original texts given with the purpose of providing material for reading and translation. The texts were taken from manuals for Tatar high schools. Bibliographical details are given on p. 133. It should be pointed out that at the present time, i. e., in 1968, some texts could have been replaced with reading-material easier and otherwise more suitable for the beginners. Such texts are available, e. g., those given in R. S. Gazizov's book Tatarskiy yazık (see Bibliography, p. 4 under B. Grammars and manuals).

The texts are followed by a glossary which does not exhaust the Tatar vocabulary but contains only such words which occur in the texts.

Due to the fact that, during the years subsequent to the appearance of the first edition of this book, Soviet turcology and especially the native Tatar linguistic studies have made a remarkable progress, and numerous important works on Tatar have appeared, the bibliography appended to the first edition (of 1963) had to be replaced by an entirely new bibliography which the reader will find on pp. 4 ff.

In conclusion, let it be said that previous knowledge of Turkish, although not obligatory, will be very helpful to a student of Tatar. It should be emphasized, however, that knowledge of Russian is almost a must. Not to mention the fact that most of the literature on the Tatars and their language is in Russian, Tatar has also

numerous Russian loanwords and verbatim translations, calques like Tatar kızı̄l počmak "red corner" which translates Russian krasniy ugolok "red corner", i. e., a place in a factory (or office, school, etc.) where employees can get newspapers and books for reading after work; Tatar kızı̄l süz öčen "for the sake of a red word" which translates Russian radi krasnogo slovca "for the sake of a jest" (verbatim "red word"), etc.

Seattle, March 15, 1968.

Nicholas Poppe

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR.	1
0. Introduction	3
1. Phonology	8
1.1. The phonemes	8
1.2. The vowel phonemes	8
1.3. The consonant phonemes	10
1.4. Juncture	14
1.41. Compound juncture	14
1.42. Stress	14
1.5. Morphophonemic alternations	15
1.51. Vocalic harmony	15
1.52. Vowel alternations	17
1.53. Internal sandhi	18
1.6. Orthographical representation of the phonemes	19
2. Inflection	29
2.1. Substantive inflection	29
2.11. Basic form of the substantive	29
2.12. The derivational suffix	29
2.13. The concrete-relational suffixes	30
2.14. The pure-relational suffixes	34
2.141. The functions of the pure-relational suffixes	35
2.142. Paradigms	38
2.143. Pure-relational suffixes on possessive stems	40
2.15. The predicative suffixes	50
2.16. The postpositions	51
2.2. Pronoun inflection	53
2.21. The inflection of the personal pronouns	53
2.22. The demonstrative pronouns	55
2.3. Verb inflection	57
2.30. Categories	57
2.31. The stems	58
2.32. The personal endings	58

2.33.	The finite forms	59
2.34.	The simple tenses	59
2.341.	The past tense	60
2.342.	The conditional	61
2.343.	The imperative	62
2.35.	The verbal nouns	65
2.351.	The first noun of action	65
2.352.	The noun of the actor	66
2.353.	The second noun of action	67
2.354.	The noun of intention	67
2.355.	The noun of possibility	67
2.36.	The participles	68
2.361.	The past participle	68
2.3611.	Past tense	69
2.3612.	Gerund in /-gÄncE/	69
2.362.	The present participle	69
2.3621.	Present tense	70
2.3622.	Participle of necessity	70
2.363.	The first future participle	71
2.3631.	Future tense	72
2.364.	The second future participle	73
2.37.	The gerunds	75
2.371.	The first present gerund	76
2.372.	The second present gerund	76
2.373.	The past gerund	77
2.374.	The future gerund	77
2.38.	Defective verbs	78
3.	Form- and Function-Classes	80
3.0.	Parts of speech	80
3.1.	Nouns	80
3.2.	Adjectives	82
3.21.	Interrogative adjectives	82
3.22.	The negative adjectives	82
3.23.	The numeral adjectives	82
3.3.	The pronouns	83
3.4.	The verbs	83
3.5.	The adverbs	83
3.6.	The postpositions	84
3.7.	The conjunctions	84
3.71.	Coordinating conjunctions	84
3.72.	Subordinating conjunctions	85
3.8.	The particles	85
3.81.	Postpositional particles	85

3.82.	Prepositional particles	86
3.83.	Interjectional particles	86
4.	Word-Formation	88
4.0.	Suffixation and composition	88
4.1.	Nouns	88
4.11.	Nouns from nouns	88
4.12.	Nouns from adjectives	89
4.121.	Nouns from numeral adjectives	89
4.13.	Nouns from verbs	89
4.14.	Compound nouns	91
4.141.	Coordinate composition	91
4.142.	Subordinate composition	91
4.2.	Adjectives	91
4.21.	Adjectives from nouns	91
4.22.	Adjectives from pronouns	92
4.23.	Adjectives from adjectives	92
4.231.	The comparative	92
4.232.	The diminutive adjectives	92
4.233.	Adjectives from numerals	93
4.24.	Adjectives from verbs	93
4.25.	Adjectives from adverbs	94
4.26.	Compound adjectives	94
4.261.	Coordinate composition	94
4.262.	Subordinate composition	95
4.3.	Verbs	96
4.31.	Verbs from nouns	96
4.32.	Verbs from adjectives	96
4.321.	Verbs from numeral adjectives	96
4.33.	Verbs from adverbs	96
4.34.	Verbs from interjectional particles	97
4.35.	Verbs from verbs	97
4.351.	Passive and reflexive verbs	97
4.352.	Reciprocal verbs	98
4.353.	Factitive verbs	98
4.354.	Frequentative verbs	100
4.36.	Compound verbs	101
4.361.	Subordinate composition	101
4.37.	Compound tenses	102
4.371.	Conditional + auxiliary verb	103
4.372.	Imperative + auxiliary verb	103
4.373.	Participle-compounds	103
4.374.	Gerund-compounds	104
4.4.	Adverbs	105

4.41.	Pure-relational forms	105
4.42.	Special suffixes	105
4.421.	Adverbs of manner	105
4.422.	Interrogative adverbs	107
4.423.	Adverbs of time	107
4.43.	Compound adverbs	107
4.431.	Coordinate composition	108
4.432.	Subordinate composition	108
4.44.	Comparison of adverbs	108
5.	Phrase-Structure	109
5.0.	Phrase	109
5.01.	Coordinate and contrastive phrases	109
5.1.	Nominal phrases	112
5.11.	Attribute + head	112
5.111.	Attribute in the nominative	112
5.112.	Possessive phrases	114
5.12.	Head + attribute	115
5.2.	Adjectival phrases	116
5.21.	Attribute + head	116
5.3.	Pronominal phrases	117
5.4.	Adverbial phrases	117
5.41.	Attribute + head	117
5.42.	Head + attribute	118
5.5.	Postpositional phrases	118
5.6.	Verbal complement	118
5.61.	Equational complement	118
5.62.	Direct object complement	119
5.63.	Adverbial complement	119
6.	Clause-Structure	122
6.0.	Clause	122
6.1.	Full clauses	122
6.11.	The predicate	122
6.12.	The subject	123
6.121.	Agreement between subject and predicate	123
6.122.	Equational clauses	123
6.123.	Lack of agreement	123
6.124.	Compound subjects	124
6.125.	Pause ()	124
6.2.	Types of intonation and clause-structure	125
6.21.	Declarative clauses	125
6.211.	Normal order	125

6.212. Inversion	125
6.213. Negative clauses	126
6.22. Interrogative clauses	126
6.23. Exclamatory clauses	127
6.3. Minor clauses	127
6.31. Fragmentary clauses	127
6.32. Interjectional clauses	127
6.4. Combination of clauses	128
6.41. Coordinate clauses	128
6.411. Without conjunctions	128
6.412. With conjunctions	128
6.42. Subordination	129
6.421. Direct discourse	129
 II. TEXTS	 131
 III. GLOSSARY	 193

I DESCRIPTIVE
GRAMMAR