

HILL MARI ORTHOEPY: CONCEPT, RULES AND THE IMPORTANCE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS OF THE HILL MARI LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The relevance of language education as a linguistic reality is due to the role that language, being an integral part of the national consciousness of the people, plays an important role in the processes of socialization of the individual. The presented article deals with orthoepy rules and laws in the Hill Mari language which belongs to Finno-Ugric language group. The authors defined three main laws in the Hill Mari orthoepy; they are conjunction, palatal harmony, morpheme boundary signal. Moreover, the main phonetic processes will be also described in the article because they play an important role in the language education of the future Hill Mari teachers. The purpose of this research is to describe the main laws of Hill Mari orthoepy which is essential in the Hill Mari language education in general. It seems that correct pronunciation of sounds and putting wrong stresses in words does not carry anything unusual, but in reality it is not correct assumption. Errors, deviations from orthoepy norms in school teachers' speech distract the students, forcing them to concentrate on the incorrect pronunciation, and not on the meaning of the subject.

Keywords: Language Education, Hill Mari Orthoepy, Pronunciation, Norm.

1. INTRODUCTION

During our trips to Hill Mari region of the Mari El Republic, our informants noted the importance of correct spelling of words and texts in their native language, but to our surprise, most of the respondents believed that they can speak as they want to. They noted that the most important thing is to speak a native language, because quite a sad situation is developing related to the preservation and functioning of the Hill Mari language: among thousands of functioning languages in the world, there is the language which is spoken by only about 23 thousand people in the Russian Federation. According to Consolidated Results of the 2010 All-Russian Population Census for the Republic of Mari El held in 2013, the Hill Mari language is spoken by 21,190 people in the Hill Mari region of the Mari El Republic.

Why is this happening? Why do people 'worship' the written language and disdain the spoken language? If we consider the history of the language, it turns out that the spoken language is much older than the written one. Moreover, written language in the Hill Mari language appeared relatively recently - at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century.

Currently, the school is faced with the task of further increasing the effectiveness of teaching and educating students. With regard to teaching the Hill Mari language, this means strengthening the practical orientation of teaching, developing schoolchildren's skills and abilities of self-education, increasing attention to the development of schoolchildren's culture of speech, instilling in them a negative attitude towards deviations from the norms of the Hill Mari language, striving for speech self-improvement.

In this regard, it seems extremely important to put all available information about this language especially for school teachers or future specialists in the Hill Mari language.

2. OPINION AND DISCUSSIONS

The issues of normalization of the Hill Mari language, the struggle to improve the speech culture of its speakers developed in the 20th century. This is due to an increase in the educational level of people and the ever-increasing popularity of their native language.

It is known that the literary language is characterized by distinctive features, among which the normative nature of pronunciation and stress, word usage, etc. These and other norms are mandatory for every native speaker, regardless of social origin, residence, occupation and other factors.

So, the attitude to the norms of literary pronunciation and stress, or orthoepy, testifies to the general cultural level of the native speaker and is no less important than the attitude to the norms of written speech, especially since oral speech plays a more significant role in the lives of many people than written. Each or almost everyone says more often than they write. Moreover, writing skills are formed on the basis of speaking skills and depend on them.

At the present stage of the development of the Hill Mari language, oral speech is used not only in everyday communication, but also in a newspaper 'Zherä' and a magazine "U Sem", in educational institutions, on the stages of the Hill Mari theater.

The need to comply with the norms of oral speech for future teachers of the Hill Mari language is explained by communicative and aesthetic factors. Indeed, any deviations from the rules of pronunciation and stress are perceived as deviations from the exact transmission of thought, complicate communication, mutual understanding, distract from the content of speech, switch the attention of listeners to its phonetic features, which are different from the generally accepted ones.

According to R.I. Avanesov, orthoepy as an independent brunch of linguistics, studies "a set of rules of oral speech that ensure the unity of its sound design in accordance with the norms of the national language, historically developed and entrenched in the literary language" (Avanesov, 1984, pp. 13).

At the same time, we could distinguish two groups of linguists dealing the concept of "orthoepy". The first group of linguists includes in this concept only the norms of pronunciation of sounds and their combinations, as well as words (A. N. Gvozdev, M. V. Panov and others). Others define orthoepy as a set of pronunciation and stress norms (R. I. Avanesov, A. A. Reformatsky and others).

According to R.I. Avanesov, pronunciation includes the phonetic system of the language, the composition of phonemes, their strong and weak positions under certain phonetic conditions (Avanesov, 1984).

The concept of pronunciation also covers the sound of some grammatical forms (for example, the genitive case of nouns; reflexive suffixes of verbs; adjectives which are used instead of nouns, etc.), which, in fact, goes beyond the phonetic system, but characterizes pronunciation as such. Consequently, pronunciation is a broader concept than the concept of the phonetic system, although it serves as the basis for pronunciation.

Orthoepy as an integral part of the science of language is based on the relevant norms, which mean a set of phenomena allowed by the language system, selected and fixed in the speech of native speakers and are mandatory for all native speakers of this language. Literary language presupposes a strict selection of linguistic facts as the norm. On the one hand, linguistic traditions are taken into account, on the other hand, progressive trends in the development of the language are also considered.

The relationship between phonetics and orthoepy is obvious. Phonetics is the foundation on which the building of orthoepy is erected. Phonetics makes it possible to get acquainted with the composition of phonemes that differ in each given position, with the alternation of sounds, that is, with everything that is included in the concept of "sound system of language". According to R. I. Avanesov, without acquaintance with the phonetic system of the language, its theoretical and practical study is impossible (Avanesov, 1984).

Phonetics classifies sounds in terms of articulatory and acoustic.

The articulation characteristic is based on distinguishing sounds according to the movement of the speech organs necessary for their pronunciation, therefore, in order to educate the sound culture, it is necessary to systematically train the speech organs in order to achieve, on the one hand, a clear, distinct pronunciation of speech sounds, and on the other hand, correct articulatory errors of individual students. This ultimately ensures success in teaching correct literary pronunciation and stress.

Teaching orthoepy at school relies on basic information in the field of phonetics (in particular, distinguishing between hard and soft, voiced and voiceless consonants, quantitative and qualitative reduction of unstressed

vowels, voicing and stunning consonants, etc.).

Pronouncing, or orthoepic, norms of the Hill Mari language include the rules for the pronunciation of vowels and consonants, the rules for the pronunciation of combinations of consonants, the rules for the pronunciation of suffixes and particles, the rules for the pronunciation of individual grammatical forms, and the peculiarities of the pronunciation of words of foreign language origin.

Orthoepic norms are determined by the phonetic system of the Hill Mari language. Members of the grant team have distinguished the following phonetic laws and processes: palatal harmony, the law of concatenation of words, border signal between morphemes.

Palatal harmony is the most commonly used phonetic law in the Hill Mari language which is not used in Meadow Mari. A word can usually contain either only front vowels [ä, ö, ü, ё], or only back vowels [a, o, y, s]: *пәшәштышы* 'at work', *әмәллән* 'for the reason', *әрәкә* 'wine', *әрләннө* 'hamster'. There are exceptions, for example, in the verb endings after the front vowels, -a is pronounced, and not -ä: *Бирьиктыделам* 'did not heat', *пәшәштыделам* 'did not work'. It is worth mentioning that in Kilemary region where the Hill Maris inhabited the vowels of the front row ä, ё are pronounced in this place: *Бирьиктыделәм* 'did not heat', *пәшәштыделәм* 'did not work'. The vowel harmonic realization of vowels in Hill Mari is dependent on the previous syllable, not on the general quality of the vowels in a word.

Two or more words are tightly linked and pronounced as one single word, and this law is called concatenation of words, for example: *кавшта кагыль* 'cabbage pie' is pronounced [кавштагагыл], *шим кыткы* 'a black ant' is pronounced [шимгыткы], *үшты кечы* [үштыгечы] 'a cold day'. When words are concatenated, the pronunciation of consonants depends on the inter-vocal position and on assimilation. In the position between vowels and after voiced consonants, the voiceless consonant is pronounced as a paired voiced consonant (k-g, t-d, p-v, etc.).

In a word, in the morphemic border, two identical sounds do not denote a long vowel sound and as a result a morphemic borderline is formed between them: *амаса-ан* 'house with a door', *авартыла-ан* 'with bread', *төкә-ән* 'with a doll'.

Future school teachers should know that phonetic laws govern phonetic processes in any language. Phonetic processes include mainly include combinatorial processes caused by changes in consonant combinations: assimilation of voiceless and voiced consonants; dissimilation of sounds; falling off of the final vowel sound in a word; loss of sounds (Vasikova, 1997).

Assimilation of voiceless and voiced consonants is related with the assimilation of the subsequent voiceless sound to the previous voiced one: *шыргыж колташ* [шыргыжголташ] 'to be pleased', *ял кишә* [йалгишә] 'footprint'. Assimilation of the previous voiced sound is assimilated to the next voiceless one, for example: *кидшы* [китшы], *падшы* [патшы], *пәжтәш* [пәштәш].

Our data shows that the second active phonetic process is the dissimilation of sounds: the similar sounds lose commonality: *нырлы* [ныллы] 'forty', *пырындалаш* [пырылалаш] 'to bite'. Future schoolteachers should remember that the phenomenon of dissimilation in the Hill Mari language is considered a spelling error.

Falling off of the final vowel sound in a word, at the junction with the initial sound of the next word is the process of elision: *пичыштыш(ы) олма* 'an apple from the garden', *солаштыш(ы) пашкуды* 'neighbour in the village', *тотешдым(ы) качкыш* 'the food which one has never tasted', *уждым(ы) эдем* 'unknown person'.

The loss of sounds can be observed at the junction / border of morphemes): *солаштышат (солаштышы + ат)* 'and in the village', *сирымыкем (сирымыкы + ем)* 'after I have written', *Бидрәмәш (Бидырәмәш)* 'a woman'.

Haplology (loss of a syllable) is a sound change involving the loss of a syllable when it is next to a phonetically identical syllable, for example: *кыш(кы) талашет* 'where are you hurrying', *тиш(кы) толыма* 'come here'.

Modern orthoepic norms regulate the pronunciation of sounds, their combinations, grammatical forms, names and patronymics, etc., as well as the rules for stating stress in various parts of speech. A teacher's knowledge and adherence to these norms is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of appropriate work with students. That is why it seems necessary to name and characterize the main norms, the violation of which makes communication difficult, and also to pay attention to some options that coexist within the norm.

Hill Mari orthoepy includes the rules for the pronunciation of vowels and consonants, the rules for the pronunciation of combinations of consonants, of suffixes and particles, the rules for the pronunciation of individual grammatical forms, the peculiarities of the pronunciation of words of foreign language origin.

Spelling rules prevent an error in pronunciation, cut off invalid options. Pronunciation options, recognized as incorrect, non-literary ones, may appear under the influence of the background of other language systems - territorial dialects.

Specialists in the field of phonetics, establish orthoepic norms. Orthoepy codifiers weigh all the pros and cons of each of the options encountered, while taking into account different factors: the prevalence of the pronunciation option, its compliance with the objective laws of language development (that is, they look at which option is doomed and which one has future).

In addition, orthoepics specialists are in no hurry to approve a new version, adhering to reasonable conservatism: literary pronunciation should not change too quickly, it should be stable, because the literary language binds generations, unites people. Therefore, it is necessary to recommend a traditional, but living norm, even if it was not the most widespread. All norms and rules of orthoepy should be recorded in orthoepic dictionaries.

In the Hill Mari language, orthoepic norms are formed and mainly include phonetic processes and laws functioning in it. The basic phonetic law of the Hill Mari language is palatal harmony.

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