

Skolt Saami Music Tradition in Paččjokk during 1910s and 1920s **- Transcriptions and Recordings by Isak Saba, Armas Launis and Armas Otto Väisänen**

Marko Jouste (University of Oulu)

In my paper, I shall investigate and analyze Skolt Saami music tradition of Paččjokk in Pechenga region from 1910s and 1920s. Its musical and textual features and local particularities have not yet been studied comprehensively as the focus of research has been in the culture of another Skolt Saami village called *Suõ'nn'jel*.

The period of the late 19th century and the first decades of 20th century represent a vast societal change as the Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian settlement and cultural impact increases in the Paččjokk area. The founding of town of Kirkenes, mining industry, and improving livestock farming in riverside areas of Paččjokk-river as well as new forms of open sea fishing pose serious threats to the traditional way of life of the Skolt Saami. There is also the impact of the First World War (1914–1918) and the Russian Civil war (1917–1922) in the area.

The material from 1910s and 1920s contains unique oral history describing the way how the Skolt Saami have experienced their own life and these historical changes in the region. In the long narrative songs called *leu'dd*, the performers tell stories of the Skolt Saami way of life, particular events in the village, life stories of relatives and neighbors, and comment the relations between different people living in the region. For example, one *leu'dd* reveals the Skolt Saami experience of the Bolshevik occupation of Pechenga during year 1920. Furthermore, the independence process of Finland as its own state between Norway and Russia and the annexation of the Pechenga area to Finland in 1921 created a completely new social, economic, and cultural situation in the area.

There exist three collections of Paččjokk culture and music made during 1910s and 1920s. These offers a unique material to examine a historical Skolt Saami culture and music tradition belonging to the area of Paččjokk. The work of these three collectors contains total of 24 transcriptions by Isak Saba (1875–1921) from the years 1913–1920, 71 transcriptions and 60 recordings by Armas Launis (1884–1959) made in 1922, and 31 transcriptions by Armas Otto Väisänen (1890–1969) from the year 1926. There are also various examples of *leu'dds* performed by the same persons in all three collections.

After 1920s examples of the tradition of Paččjokk was recorded only frequently due to the rapid cultural change caused by the building a modern Finnish infrastructure in the area (e.g. tourism, urban living areas, mining industry, hydro-electric plants), which had a crucial impact on the Skolt Saami and traditional culture. After the Second World War the whole Pechenga region was ceded to Soviet Union. From 1950s onwards, the recording of the Skolt Saami culture focused almost solely to language and culture of *Če'vetjäu'rr*, where the people of *Suõ'nn'jel* were resettled after the forced emigration.