

Digitalization of Finno-Ugric Minority Languages: Personal Experience

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In recent years, the digital landscape has transformed the preservation and promotion of minority languages, including those within the Finno-Ugric family. This abstract reflects my personal journey and experience in the digitalization efforts for the Udmurt language, a member of the Finno-Ugric group, while highlighting my positionality and motivation for initiating this project.

As a member of the Udmurt community and a developer deeply committed to cultural and linguistic preservation, I was driven by a dual motivation: a personal connection to my heritage and a professional passion for leveraging technology to address societal challenges. Witnessing the gradual decline of the Udmurt language and its limited digital presence, I felt a profound responsibility to contribute to its revitalization. This led me to embark on a mission to create innovative digital tools that could make learning Udmurt engaging and accessible.

The journey began with the development of applications designed to teach the Udmurt language in an interactive and culturally relevant manner. These tools were not merely technical solutions but also a means to instill pride and curiosity about the language among native speakers and new learners alike. Beyond individual applications, I recognized the critical role of community in sustaining linguistic heritage. This realization inspired the creation of the “Udmurt Digital” community, a collaborative platform that brings together language enthusiasts, educators, and technologists to share resources, ideas, and strategies for expanding the digital footprint of Udmurt.

Through this abstract, I share practical insights and reflections on the challenges and successes encountered during this journey. My positionality as both an insider within the Udmurt community and a technologist has shaped the approach and outcomes of this project. By emphasizing grassroots initiatives and community-driven efforts, this work underscores the transformative potential of digital tools in preserving minority languages and ensuring their relevance in the digital age.