

About the role of Finno-Ugric literatures of Russia in language revival, language planning and Finno-Ugric co-operation

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The Finno-Ugric literatures of the Finno-Ugric minorities in the Russian Federation are never paid much attention to outside Russia. Mainly those literatures are of interest to the people considered. Some attention has been given to them in other Finno-Ugric regions. For example there has been some translation projects, such as translations of different Finno-Ugric literatures into Finnish in Carelia journal in Karelian Republic.

Outside Russia Finno-Ugric literatures were mainly unknown till the end of the Soviet period. The first congress of Finno-Ugric literatures was held in 1989 in Joshkar-Ola. Unfortunately the status of Finno-Ugric literatures worldwide has not risen so much as one could have expected at the time of the “reunion” of Finno-Ugric peoples. There has been some sporadic efforts to translate Finno-Ugric literature from the Russian Federation into Finnish, Estonian and Hungarian and to some extent into other languages, but for example studies of eastern Finno-Ugric languages have got almost no place in the academic circles outside Russia.

I will analyze the main tendencies of the development of Finno-Ugric co-operation in the literature. What has been done and what should be done and why? What are the obstacles in developing the literatures of Finno-Ugric minorities?