

Tatar Language Preservation Strategies and Innovative Practices

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“Tatar language preservation strategies and innovative practices” presents Tatar language preservation strategies and innovative practices from the Baltic Sea region to Australia, and it also includes new projects involving Noghay, Karaim and Karachay-Balkar. More than a dozen articles explore and describe different approaches to the languages from historical and modern perspectives. The book also introduces multilingual and visual methods for presenting scientific topics. Several of the articles document for the first time themes which have been little researched so far.

The first part of this book, *Activities*, presents the language preservation strategies, education and language-supporting activities of several Tatar communities. The language, cultural, educational and literary activities of the Tatars in Finland for the past century and today are presented in two articles. Two articles from Estonia explore the Tatar identity in connection with language and religion, and Tatar multilingualism and family language policy respectively. Diaspora activities to support the Tatar language and culture and cooperation with other Turkic groups are the focus of an article about Australian Tatars. A political dimension to language is added in a historical review about the Tatar language presence in Germany. The space where language, culture and religion are preserved and transmitted is discussed in a visual article about the Cathedral Mosque in Saint Petersburg.

The second part of the book, *Innovative*, explores new approaches and creative methods for supporting, transmitting and learning language. Recent projects for translating Easy to Read books into Tatar and writing Tatar language haiku poetry are introduced in two multilingual articles. A new visual teaching approach for Noghay, using pictures from everyday life as inspiration, is launched here for the first time. Opportunities offered by the internet, which can be helpful for minority and endangered language researchers and users, is presented in an article on online resources.

Two book reviews complete the book: one reports on the use of Easy to Read books in Tatar language teaching in Finland and the other on

translations in Karaim and Balkar. The experiences and practices presented here extend and diversify the concept of scientific research on minority and endangered languages. The authors employ several cross-disciplinary approaches and methods, different types and combinations of sources which allow for novel perspectives as well as diverse and original ways of presenting the research process and results. This book focuses mainly on the Tatar language, but the questions of language preservation strategies and innovative practices are global.

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