The Intersection of the Old Russian and Karelian Languages in the *Olonetsky Sbornik* of the 17th Century

One of the largest collections of handwritten charms of the 17th century – *Olonetsky Sbornik* ("The Olonets Miscellany", The Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 21.9.10) – contains about 130 texts, including 14 which are written in Karelian in part or in full. The aim of the proposed presentation is to reconstruct some Old Russian dialect features using the Karelian charms and to describe mutual influence of the languages in their vocabulary.

I consider the both scribes were speakers of the Novgorod or the north-eastern Novgorod periphery dialect, according to the dialect features in the script. Throughout the *Olonetsky Sbornik*, there are marked seven dialect features: 1) realization of *ě in sound [i] in stressed position, 2) distinction vowels [o] and [a] in unstressed syllables, 3) sibilant [ʃʲ:] and voiced sibilants [ʒ], [ʒ:], 4) merger of the voiceless alveolar affricate /ts/ and the voiceless postalveolar affricate /tʃ/, 5) syncretic inflection of *ā-stem nouns in Gen.–Dat.–Loc. singular, 6) adjective inflection *-ыма/-има* in Instr. plural, 7) constructions of existential-modal *есть* for present forms. Also the dialect of the second scribe is characterized by three dialect features: 1) preposition *ув*, 2) noun inflection *-амы/-ямы* in Instr. plural, 3) using noun in Nom. in participle clause.

The language of the non-Russian texts, according to S. Myznikov (2010), could not be reliable differentiated as Livvi, Ludic, Veps, or Karelian proper. The researcher mentions the following features of the second scribe: 1) the grapheme *г* in place of Baltic-Finnish [h] that means the pronunciation of voiced velar fricative as [ɣ] (*пига / piha* 'yard'), 2) using *в* in place of Baltic-Finnish [u] (*лавта / lauta* 'board'), 3) *ts–ch* merger (loanword *церенка* / in Russian *черница*), 4) writing the lexeme *mies* 'man' with the grapheme *ѣ*. Continuing these observations, I have suggested, that the example (2) demonstrates the bilabial pronunciation [w] in the dialect, whereas (4) shows the pronunciation *ѣ* as diphthong [ie] – all this features are specific to the north-eastern Novgorod periphery and they permit to more accurately define the dialect of the scribe.

The vocabulary of the charms is no less interesting. One of the texts contains the lexeme *верга* (Baltic-Finnish *verha* 'sacrifice'), which denotes a material object used as a sacrifice during magic ritual. The researchers argue about the origin of the lexeme, suggesting its Baltic-Finnish or Russian etymon, but the text in the *Olonetsky Sbornik* allows to confirm a hypothesis about the Russian origin of this word. The ritual throwing of this object suggests the formation of the lexem *верга* from a verb *вьргнути* 'to throw' – this is the nominal form of the present participle in masc. Nom. singular with specific ending *-а*. Thus, the *верга / verha* is the result of adstratum penetration, that could appear in non-Slavic dialects no earlier than the 12th–13th centuries due to clarification of the reduced vowel *ь*.

The *Olonetsky Sbornik* of the 17th is an unique example of ethno-linguistical contacts. The further researching of it, especially in grammar, will help to more accurate describe the ancient state of the Russian and Karelian languages.

Myznikov, S.A. "Karel'sko-vepsskie zagovory Olonetskogo sbornika" [The Karelian-Vepsian Charms of the Olonetsky Sbornik], in: *Russkie zagovory iz rukopisnyh istochnikov XVII – pervoj poloviny XIX v.* [The Russian Charms from the Manuscripts of the 17th – First Half of the 19th Centuries]. Moscow: Indrik, 2010, pp. 286–310.