

P.K. USLAR

The learning of Caucasus languages is also connected with the name of Pyotr Karlovich Uslar. His name in history has remained as general major of the Main Headquarters of Caucasus Army, as well as an academic of the Emperor's Academy of Sciences of Saint Petersburg. Baron P.K. Uslar is famous in history as a linguist and outstanding expert of the Caucasus. As a result of his research in the Lezgi language he published a book in 1896 in Tbilisi.

Pyotr Karlovich was born in Tver province of Russia in the village of Kurovo. He pursued an occupation of military engineer and in 1837 he started military service in the Caucasian Army. The beauty of Caucasus, the traditions of highlanders, and their bravery compelled him to stay at these places. The three years he spent there, left him with many memories. In 1840 he entered to the Emperor's Military Academy, served in different regions of Russia, and only 10 years later, came back to the Caucasus and stayed here until the end of his life. In 1851, by the initiative of the vicegerent of Caucasus, a Caucasian department of the Russian Society was created and P.K. Uslar was one of its members. In 1885 he was commissioned to write the history of the Caucasus. This challenged him to learn everything about Caucasian nature and the Caucasus people.

In order to learn Caucasian history, the scientist understood the importance of searching the local languages – and so he began with this activity. In order to learn the Ibero-Caucasian group of languages P.K. Uslar started with study of the Abkhaz and Chechen languages. In 1863 he began to explore and learn the Dagestani languages: Avar, Lezgi, Lak, Dargin and Tabasaran languages. In 1871 P.K. Uslar informed the academic A. Shifner about the accomplishment of "Kure research". Then A. Shifner systematized this research in 1872 and published it in the German language in a Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences bulletin. This is how the scientific world first became familiar with this research.

A new compilation of the Lezgi alphabet was a great scientific achievement of Uslar's. On this foundation, a new Lezgi alphabet was published Qazanfar Bay. Also, P.K. Uslar was the first to establish the Lezgi language in an academic form. His book contains more than 1500 Lezgi-Russian words.

P.K. Uslar has left a great ethnographic, linguistic, and historical heritage. He passed away in 1875.

Excerpts from the book "Qusar Region and Its Inhabitants" by Sedaget Kerimova