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Linguistics) – Mária Sipos (HUN-REN Hungarian Research Centre for
Linguistics) – Clive Tolley (University of Turku): K. F. Karjalainen's Eastern
Khanty Text Collection (1899–1901): a book presentation**

Abstract:

Between 1898 and 1902, Kustaa Fredrik Karjalainen undertook extensive fieldwork in Western Siberia, traversing the entire region in which Khanty was spoken. During this period, he compiled a substantial body of lexical material from all dialects and additionally produced grammatical sketches and recorded a range of folklore texts. Owing to his untimely death, Karjalainen was unable to bring his collection to publication. The Finno-Ugrian Society assumed responsibility for preserving his legacy, and several researchers contributed to this significant endeavour. The final stage of the work was carried out by Márta Csepregi, who published the critical edition of the Eastern Khanty text corpus in 2024.

The original manuscript contained only Khanty texts, without translations—except for marginal notes intended to aid interpretation. The edited version comprises a phonematic transcription of the manuscript, an English translation, the original marginal notes, and an extensive set of explanatory notes elucidating linguistic and folkloristic features. It also includes an introductory chapter that situates Karjalainen's work in its historical and scholarly context, offers detailed information on the dialects in sections accompanying the texts, and a concluding chapter that examines the collection from a folkloristic perspective.

The aim of this talk is to present the volume, which contains the earliest extant Eastern Khanty texts—some of which represent dialects that have either disappeared or are on the verge of extinction. The presentation will provide an overview of the volume, including the additional features of the online edition, and discuss its significance from the perspectives of linguistics and ethnography.