

The Nganasan language - already enlisted in the *UNESCO Red Book of Endangered Languages* - is spoken by several hundred individuals in the Western part of Siberia on the area of the Taymyr-Peninsula (in the northeast of the mouth of the Yenisei river). It seems to be a *key language* for the reconstruction of Protouralic, with Finnish and Hungarian as most famous representatives.

Nganasan exclusively conserves features among the Uralic languages, which might have been got lost also in its closest cognate (Northsamoyedic) languages (Nenets, Enets) (e. g. vowelharmony, consonantgradation).

The in recent years recorded original texts give insight in the oral tradition and the material culture of Nganasans. They attest a close areal connection to Paleosiberian indigenous ethnics, which seemed to have left their matriarchal traces.

The present *Chrestomathia Nganasanica* has two targets. First of all, the heavily accessible texts shall be translated and edited, i.e. transcribed according to an accepted standard. Secondly the exceptional position of Nganasan as a *linguistic knot* will be pointed out. For the first time the less or unknown material of the manuscripts of M. A. Castrén (1813-1852), a linguist and „Siberiatrotter“, are exploited to put up amongst others a new theory of the Nganasan verbal system to discussion. Therefore several aspects of the Nganasan (Samoyedic) linguistic history are accented, which go beyond the scope of a traditional chrestomathy.

The *Словарь нганасанско-русский и русско-нганасанский* provided as basis of a recapitalitory description of the versatile and astonishing large number of derivations. The chrestomathy furthermore contains a continuative and deepening selective bibliographie.