

YAKUT LANGUAGE IN RUSSIA

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Yakut language is a language spoken in Russia. It is spoken by around half a million people who are the inhabitants of the region called Yakutia or Sakha.



Moreover, it is considered to be an official language in Russia. Yakut belongs to Turkic language family. It is important to state that it has many borrowings from both Mongolian and Russian. The language is spoken in other parts of the world apart from Russia like Turkey. Yakut is written using Cyrillic script with additional 5 letters that are unique to the Yakut language. The main characteristics of Yakut language are vowel harmony and the quality of being agglutinative. Yakut language has 16 vowels half of which are rounded and the other half are unrounded.

	Front		Central	Back
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	i, i:	y, y:	u, u:	u, u:
Close-mid	e, e:	ø, ø:		o, o:
Open			a, a:	

Fig. 1 Yakut language vowel chart

Consonants are fairly simple and the usage of consonant clusters is not that common.

		Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Stops	voiceless	p	t			k		
	voiced	b	d			g		
Fricatives	voiceless			s			χ	h
	voiced						ʁ	
Affricates	voiceless				c			
	voiced				ɟ			
Nasals		m	n		ɲ	ŋ		
Tap				r				
Lateral				l				
Approximant	plain	w			j			
	nasalized				ɟ̃			

Fig. 2 Yakut language consonant chart

In Yakutia there are two main dialects of Yakut language, namely: Central dialect and Peripheral dialect, which are mostly familiar and there are no big difficulties in understanding amongst the speakers of different dialects.

Yakut is a S-O-V (subject verb object) language. However, it is possible to change the word order if the situation requires it (putting emphasis). The stress is typically used on the final syllable of the word.

There are three main tenses in Yakut: past, present and future, with several versions of past and future tenses. The language has no grammatical gender and there is no fronting in making questions.

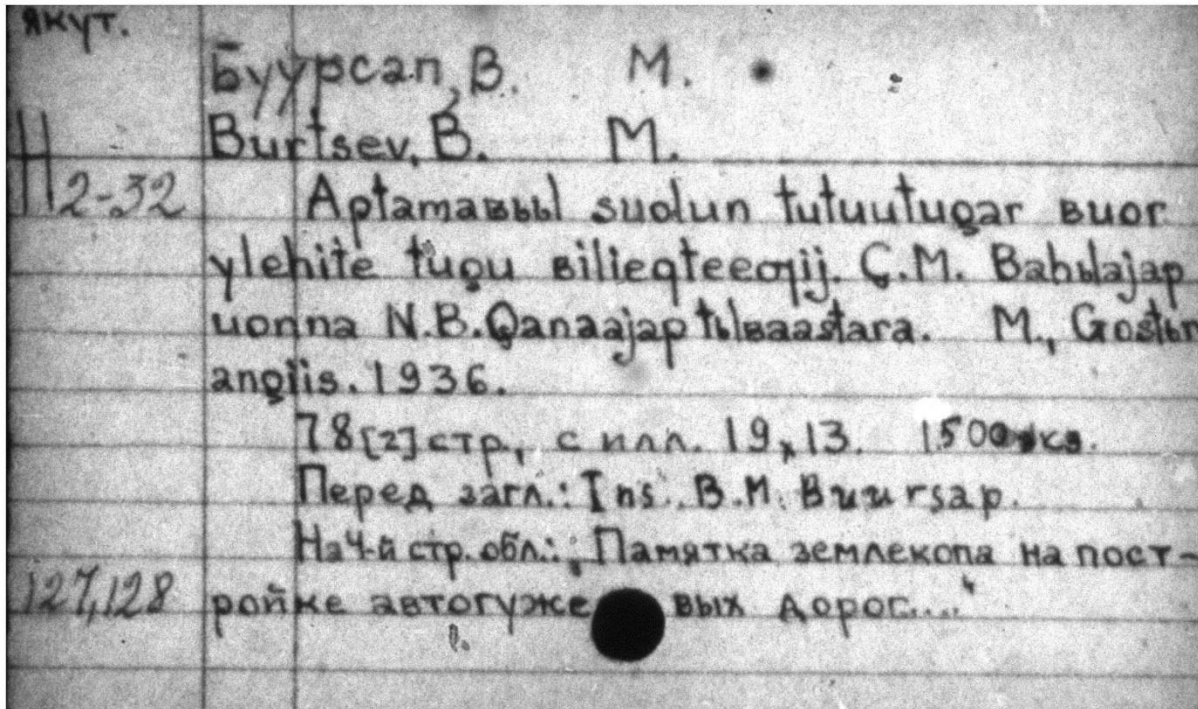


Fig. 3 Yakut written language on a piece of paper from the II World War



Fig. 4 The city of Yakutsk covered in permafrost

Youtube link to video of a polyglot speaking Yakut language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nCw24V3nV8>

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