

## *Tanıtınmalar*

Nikolaj Ivanovich Ashmarin, *THESAURUS Language Tschuwaschorum* (With Introduction by G. Doerfer). Indiana University, Bloomington, 1968 2nd ed. (reprint), v. I, p. viii 335.

Some of the dictionaries on Turkish dialects and written languages are of utmost importance because they not only give the lexicon but also shed light on the culture, folklore and ethnology of the speech community and the etymology of the lexical items. Mahmud al-Kasgari's *Diwan ü Lüğati't-türk* of the XI. century (editions by Carl Brockelmann and Besim Atalay; see Poppe's Introduction to Altaic Linguistics, p. 68), Wilhelm Radloff's *Versuch eines Wörterbuches der Turk-Dialecte*, Sankpetersburg, 1893-1911 (4 volumes) and E. K. Pekarskij's *Slovar' jakutskogo jazyka*, Sankpetersburg-Leningrad, 1907-1930 (3 volumes) are works of such encyclopedic nature, and inexhaustible sources of information.

The *Thesaurus* prepared by Ashmarin on Chuvash belongs to this group of works. Ashmarin began to prepare his dictionary around 1910 and the first volume was published in 1928, the II. and III. and IV. volumes in 1929 and the V. volume in 1930 respectively. Following his death in 1934, his students completed the remaining volumes of this gigantic work of 17 volumes by 1950.

Ashmarin collected his material from the Chuvash people among whom he lived for many years. His *Thesaurus* contains not only all the words in the lexicon of Chuvash-including proper names, names of villages, towns, cities, mountains, rivers but also the archaic words still used in the shaman prayers, sorcery, and the texts they are seen in. It bears information on shaman rituals, ceremonies, beliefs and the connected lexicon. Ashmarin provides the texts of folk tales, narratives, riddles, folk songs and the like related to the words the meanings of which are now forgotten. Hence, this work becomes a valuable source for the linguist and Turkologists as well as for the student of folklore.

As G. Doerfer states in his 'Introduction' to the reprint of this invaluable work : "There is no doubt that this book is an inexhaustible source of information for ethnologists and folklorists. I should think that a thorough investigation of Ashmarin's book would offer many new aspects of Turkish and Eastern European ethnology."