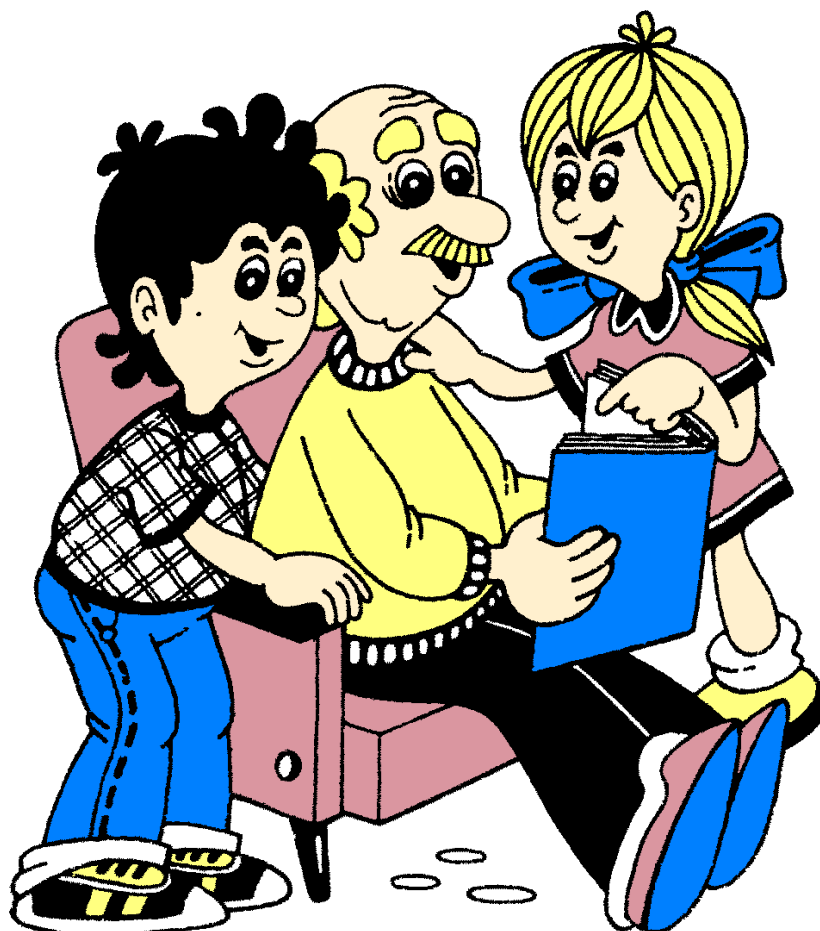


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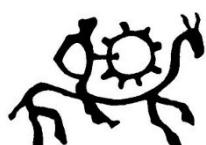
Онай мари́й йылме: A Comprehensive Introduction to the Mari Language



Revised and expanded electronic version of the textbooks

Марийский язык для всех I
(З. Г. Зорина, Г. С. Крылова, Э. С. Якимова, 1990)

Марийский язык для всех II
(Г. С. Крылова, Э. С. Якимова, 1991)



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Preface

The publication of the two volumes of the Russian-language textbook *Марийский язык для всех* 'Mari for Everybody' in 1990 and 1991 heralded the beginning of a new era for all those interested in the Mari language and culture who before that time had met with the seemingly insurmountable challenge posed by the lack of adequate materials. For the first time there was finally a manual that dealt with the modern literary language in depth, was clearly structured and well thought out, and in addition was enjoyable to use. Although the book was written in Russian and intended solely for Russian speakers, it soon found its way across the borders and became the standard work for Mari learners in the West as well.

Now, almost thirty years later, the book has by no means outlived its usefulness, and interest in the Mari language, culture, literature, and religion has in no way diminished, but, on the contrary, has increased. It was felt necessary, however, to adapt the book to meet present-day needs. This meant updating the texts to reflect recent changes in Mari society, modernizing the orthography and the language used, and altering the book for the purposes of the many Mari learners who do not have access to a Mari teacher, in other words making it fully suitable for self-learners. In the interests of universality two important changes were made: 1) The book was rewritten in English rather than in Russian, and 2) it was made available worldwide on the Internet (at omj.mari-language.com, from where readers can download our book and multiply and share it as desired), rather than being published in a traditional printed format.

The book is still divided into topics, each consisting of several lessons, but the structure of the original lessons has been changed. Each lesson is now made up of 1) a text, 2) the vocabulary needed to understand the text, i.e., an alphabetical list of all the new words appearing in this text, 3) a grammar section, 4) a section on individual words and their usage, and 5) an exercise section. Compared to the original, the grammar section is longer and more detailed. The exercises are all geared to the needs of self-learners and answers to all exercises are given in the key.

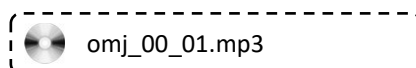


The adaptation of this manual was carried out at the Department of Finno-Ugric Studies of the University of Vienna in cooperation with the original authors, Emma Yakimova and Galina Krylova. Chapters 1–20 correspond to the first volume of *Марийский язык для всех*, chapters 21–40 to the second volume. While a first draft of the first 20 chapters was already published

online in 2010, the second half of this textbook was only completed in 2017, thanks to the research grant ‘The Mari Web Project: Phase 2’ by the Kone Foundation.



We also recorded audio materials to accompany the textbook at hand; these can, along with the book itself, be found on our website at omj.mari-language.com. Additional audio materials and the permission to use these were provided to us by Andrey Chemyshev. Audio materials accompanying a text or an exercise are indicated as follows:



Other supplementary materials found at omj.mari-language.com include a course for Memrise, a popular online learning tool (www.memrise.com), and a database of interlinear glosses of all Mari sentences found in this textbook.

When we launched our website www.mari-language.com in the autumn of 2010, the first draft of the first half of this textbook was the first large-scale resource we published. The scope and quality of materials we have been able to publish has grown immensely since then. You will find numerous other materials assisting you in your study of Mari here, such as the Mari-English Dictionary with its 42,560 headwords at dict.mari-language.com, a learner's grammar of Mari at grammar.mari-language.com, a morphological analyzer at morph.mari-language.com, a corpus of Mari texts at corpus.mari-language.com, and more. We suggest readers that are just becoming acquainted with Mari to browse through our website's various subsections, and see what resources they find useful.



The Mari courses we have offered on a more or less regular basis in Vienna (on one occasion each also in Munich and in Szeged) have been extremely useful test runs for the textbook you have in your hands, or on your electronic device, now: when we used raw versions of these chapters in our classes, we became aware of numerous facets worthy and needing of improvement. We are thankful to all our students from all our different Mari classes, for the role they played in the creation of this resource.

We would also like to thank all the colleagues, friends, family members, and institutions who have given us aid and support in this project: the University of Vienna, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, the Austrian Science Fund FWF, the Kone Foundation, Natalia Glukhova, Angelika Parfuss, Ilona Soukup, Tatyana Yefremova, Elina Guseva, Nadezhda Krasnova, Andrey Chemyshev, Natasha Pushkina, Volodya Matveyev, Elena Skribnik, Triinu Viilukas, Daniel Karvonen, Barbara Kuhar, Daniel Ebner, Marie-Christin Mayer, Hanna Ofner, Patrícia Pataky, Esther Stocker, Christian Pischlöger, Roxane Csanády, Kathrin Kaindl, Brigitte Huber, Madeleine Wruck, Gábor Fónyad, Stefanie Lammer, Johannes Hirvonen, Caroline Domes, Verena Dissauer, Tonja Schedenig, Viktor Martinovic, Maria Schubert, Olesia Yudina, Jean-Baptiste Blanc, Samopriya Basu, Rogier Blokland, Monika Schötschel, Jussi Ylikoski, Lotta Jalava, Laura Bradley, and Elaine Bradley.

To all Mari learners the world over we wish the same joy we had ourselves when using this book for our first steps in this fascinating language.

Пашада ушныжо!

Timothy Riese
Jeremy Bradley

Vienna,
April 13th, 2017