

Orientalism school

The very origin of Kazan orientalism was conditioned by the unique location at the junction of Oriental and Occidental civilizations occupied by Kazan. This fact yet in 1814 was very exactly noticed by Professor P. Kondarev: “We live among many strange nations, in ancient tatar kingdom, in the sight of former Bulgarian capital. The Tatars, the Chuvashes, the Cheremisses, the Mordovians, the Votyaks, the Zyrians surround us. The Armenians, the Persians, the Baskirians, the Kalmucks, the Bokharans and the Chinese are closer to them than to other societies.”

From the first days of foundation (1804) great attention in Kazan University was paid to the study of history and culture of eastern nations that gave rise to the development of orientalism in Kazan University. The first language to be studied was Tatar, taught by I.I. Khalfin.

The beginning of scientific orientalism formation in Kazan University is connected with the name of outstanding scientist-Arabist Kh.D. Fren (1782-1851) who from 1807 till 1817 taught Arabian and Persian languages and for those who wished – Jewish and Syrian ones. The blooming of Kazan orientalism is connected with the period of Kazan University`s being headed by N.I. Lobachevsky.

In 1828 on the basis of the Department of Oriental Languages two independent ones were formed: the Department of Turkish-Tatar literature headed by A.K. Kazem-bek (1802-1870) and the Department of Arabian-Persian literature headed by F.I. Erdman (1773-1863). The Department of Turkish-Tatar literature from 1846 was headed by extraordinary professor (from 1854 – ordinary professor) I.N. Berezin, the Department of Arabian-Persian literature in 1846-1849 was headed by A.K. Kazem-bek, in 1849-1855 – by ordinary professor I.F. Gotwald. The name of I.F. Gotwald is also famous in connection with the fund of his name existing in Lobachevski Scientific Library.

In 1833 at the initiative of N.I. Lobachevsky the first in Europe Mongolian Department was formed – it was headed by O.M. Kovalevsky (1800-1878).

By the University Constitution of 1835 courses of Arabian, Turkish, Tatar, Persian and Mongolian languages were singled out within philosophic faculty into independent Oriental category.

May 11, 1837 the first in Russia Department of Chinese language and literature was formed, transformed in 1844 into Chinese-Manchu Department. The first professor of Chinese language in Kazan University was archimandrite Daniil

(D.P. Sivillov) (1798-1871) who taught in 1837-1844. I.P. Voitsekhovskiy (1793-1850) who laid foundation for scientific manchuism in Kazan in 1844-1850 became the successor of archimandrite Daniil in Kazan University. In 1851-1855 the department was headed by V.P. Vasilyev (1818-1900).

In 1842 the Department of Armenology directed by S.I. Nazaryanz (1812-1879) and the Department of Sanskrit directed by P. Petrov (1814-1895) were opened. Traditions of Sanskrit in Kazan in 1852-1856 were continued by F.F. Bollenzen who received education at the University of Göttingen. The librarian of hydrographic department of Admiralty F.F. Bollenzen was assigned as ordinary professor of the university's Department of Sanskrit language on February 6, 1852.

In 1846 the Department of Kalmuck language was opened, headed by Mongolist A.V. Popov.

Together with main professors of Oriental literature category the classes were held by lecturers, junior scientific assistants and teachers of Oriental languages – A. Mir-Mominov (Persian language, 1839-1845), A. Sosnitskiy (Chinese language, 1840-1843), S. Rushko (Chinese language, from 1843), I. Zhukov (Arabian language, 1843-1847), M.-G. Makhmudov (Oriental calligraphy, 1843-1855), Abdussattar Kazem-Bek (Turkish-Tatar language, lecturer of this language from August 1, 1845, in 1849-1855 taught Persian language and literature), I. Ivanov (Persian language, 1845-1850), M. Navrotsky (Arabian language, from 1846), N. Sonin (Persian language, from 1846), I. Kholmogorov (Arabian and Persian languages, 1849-1842), G.G. Gladyshev (Armenian language, 1843-1853), I. Abdekarimov (Chinese language, 1853-1855).

For comparably short time after its foundation the Oriental category of Kazan University becomes academic and scientific centre of studying not only languages but also history and culture of eastern nations.

Especially actively are developing the disciplines connected with the study of Muslim countries and nations – turkology, Iranian studies, Arabistic studies, Islamic studies. The countries of foreign Muslim world – Ottoman Empire, Persia, Arab East and regions of traditional spreading of Islam in Russian Empire (the Volga region and Cisurals, Caucasus, later Middle Asia, Crimea) became the objects of research in works and articles of the Kazan university orientalists: Kh.D. Fren, I. Khalfin, F.I. Erdman, A.K. Kazem-Bek, S.I. Nazaryants, I.N. Berezin, V.F. Dittel, I.F. Gotwald and others.

Teaching and studying of Muslim languages was inseparable from scientific-research study of life, history and culture of the nations of Muslim East. By the

works of abovementioned scientists definite scientific traditions were formed which were developing in Russian oriental centers in the second half of XX century.

Research of history and culture of the nations of Muslim world was concentrated on the following main courses: preparing and publication of educational programs, manuals, textbooks, chrestomathies, dictionaries; complement of the fund of eastern manuscripts and books; collecting, study and publication of eastern written sources; translations and publications of eastern authors; scientific trips to the countries of Muslim East.

Progressive fruitful development of Kazan orientalism was interrupted in the middle of XIX by the decree of Nikolay I: "About the cut of teaching oriental languages in Kazan Imperial University and creating of Asian Institute in Petersburg" (November, 1851) and "About the cut of teaching oriental languages in Kazan Imperial University" (October, 1854).

The professors of oriental literature A.K. Kazem-Bek (from 1849), S.I. Nazaryants (from 1849) and P. Petrov (from 1852) were transferred to St. Petersburg University, Lazarevski Institute of Oriental Languages and Moscow University.

In 1855 the teaching of oriental languages was stopped at Kazan University, professors and teachers V.P. Vasilyev, I.N. Berezin, N. Sonin, M.T. Navrotsky and students of oriental branch of Kazan University were transferred to the faculty of oriental languages of Petersburg University.

This year the main oriental funds of academic library and numismatic cabinet of Kazan University were handed on. The university orientalism officially stopped its existence as independent organization form.

But even after that orientalism in Kazan University continued existing and developing in different forms. In 1860-1880 teaching of Arabian language was introduced for the desirous students.

The 80s of XIX century were marked by new stage in teaching of academic oriental disciplines in the university and in the whole development of orientalism in Kazan. This important and interesting with its many original materials period continued until 20s of XX century.

These years an exceptional role in rebirth of orientalism in the university was played by I.F. Gotwald (1813-1897), V.V. Radlov (1837-1918), J.A. Baudouin

de Courtenay (1845-1929), N.F. Katanov (1862-1922), V.A. Bogoroditsky (1857-1941), I.N. Smirnov (1856-1904), S.E. Malov and others.

An important role in the development of Kazan orientalism was played by two scientific societies of Kazan University: “Oriental society” (1855) and “Society of archeology, history and ethnography” (1878-1929).

During the first years of Soviet power the development of university orientalism was first of all connected with the increasing interest to the Tatar language and history of Tatars. There were also attempts to revive oriental branch within the university. During this period such outstanding scientists as N.N. Firsov (1864-1934), M.G. Khudyakov (1894-1936), Ali Rakhim (1892-1943), Gaziz Gubaidullin (1887-1938) and others made their contribution to the development of university orientalism.

In 1944 Tatar branch was opened in historic-philological faculty. During post-war period orientalism continued its existence mainly owing to enthusiasts.

Academic of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan Mirza Ismagilovich Makhmutov was considered to be one of the most famous teachers of Arabian language in Soviet time. Arabian language was also taught by G. Ishmukhammetov and I. Avkhadeev. Persian language was taught by Mustafa Nugman who in addition to his teaching activity was also taking care of new textbooks` supplement on Persian language and was forming work-books himself. Invaluable contribution to the historic turcology was made by Academic of Republic of Tatarstan, Professor Mirkasim Abdulakhatovich Usmanov.

In 1989 in KSU the faculty of Tatar philology, history and oriental languages was created. In 1989 the Department of Oriental Languages was opened, first headed by scientist-turkolog, Academic of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan Dilyara Garifovna Tumasheva.

The idea of orientalism`s rebirth in Kazan University always lived. This idea was materialized in the spring of 2000 when by the decision of the Academic Board from April 27, 2000 the Institute of Orientalism of KSU was formed, it is directed by Professor, header of the Department of Oriental Languages Gabdulzyamil Gabdulkhakovich Zainullin. An important role in the establishment of the institute was played by the outstanding Arabist, professor, Doctor of Sciences in Philology Anas Bakievich Khalidov (1929-2001).

The Department of Oriental Languages continues good traditions of Kazan School of Orientalism. By the efforts of its members such work-books,

monographs, chrestomathies as “Linguistica and area studies” (the author is G.G. Zainullin), “Reading Arabian manuscripts” (the author is D.A. Sharafutdinov), “Arabian poetry of Maverannakhr” (the author is D.A. Shagaviev) and others are being published.

In 2002 in KSU the Department of Turcology was opened, headed by Candidate of Science in Philology, Associate Professor Asiya Rizvanovna Rakhimova. The department is assisted by Fund of cooperation and development of Turkic nations. Among the publications of the department “Turkish grammatics” (the author is A.R. Rakhimova) should be highlighted, her work-book “Styles of Turkish literary language” also deserves attention.

In 2003 the Department of history and culture of eastern countries was formed. It was headed by the Doctor of Science in History, Professor Ramil Mirgasimovich Valeev. By the efforts of the department such books as “Essays on the history of Kazan orientalism” (R.M. Valeev), “Essays on new and newest history of the biggest Asian countries” (R.M. Valeev, S.I. Lunev, G.K. Shirokov), “Essays on the history of Turkic nations” (K.G. Akhsanov) were published.