

Mari

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Introduction to Uralic Studies

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F Finno-Ugric

FO Baltic-Finnic

- FO1 Finnish
- FO2 Karelian
- FO3 Veps
- FO4 Ingrian
- FO5 Estonian
- FO6 Votic
- FO7 Livonian

FS Sami languages

- FS1 Western Sami
- FS2 Central Sami
- FS3 Eastern Sami

FU Ugric

- FU1 Hungarian
- FU2 Mansi
- FU3 Khanty

FP Finno-Permic

- FP1 Komi-Zyrian
- FP2 Komi-Permyak
- FP3 Udmurt

FW Finno-Volgaic

- FW1 Mari
- FW2 Mordvinic

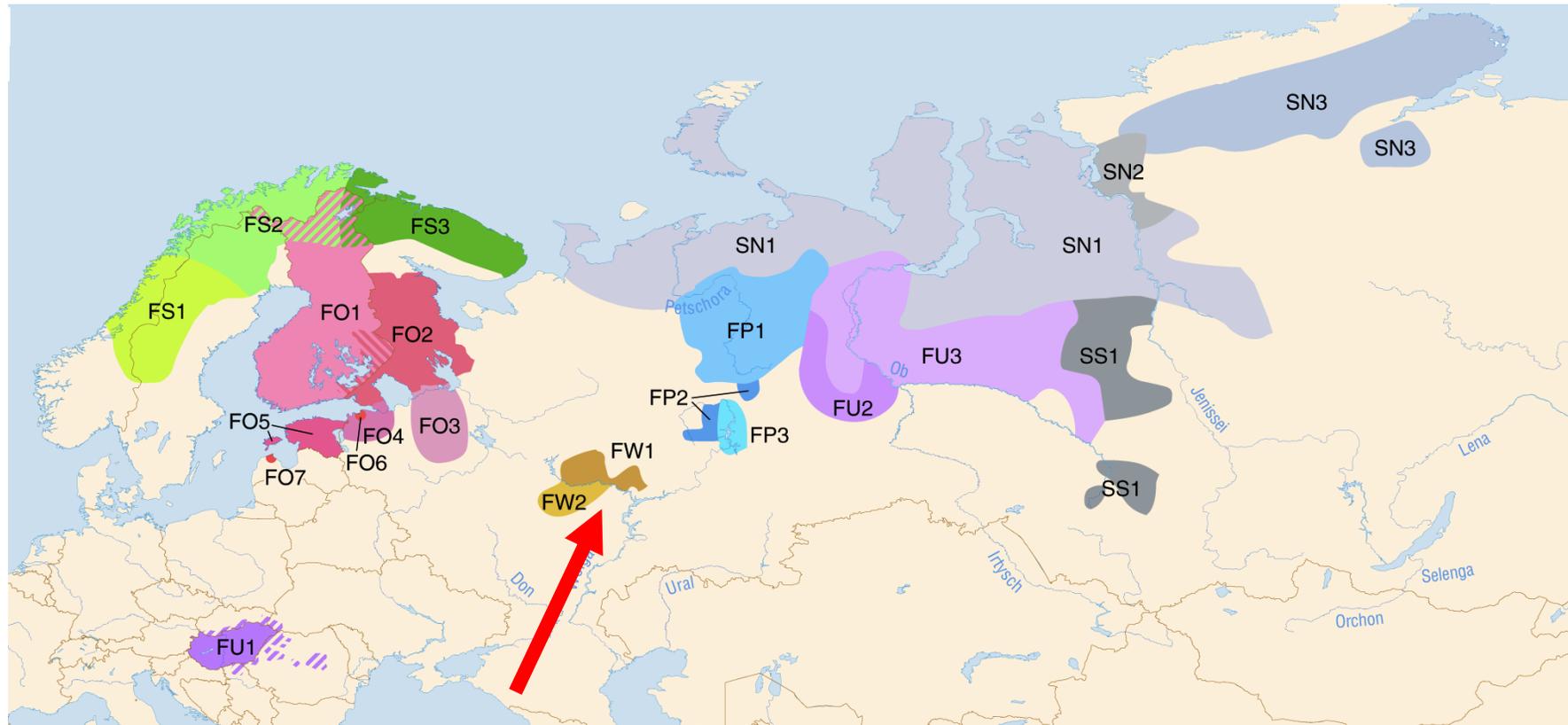
S Samoyedic

SN Northern Samoyedic

- SN1 Nenets
- SN2 Enets
- SN3 Nganasan

SS Southern Samoyedic

- SS1 Selkup



The Mari: Nomenclature

	Endonym	Exonym
Mari	марий-влак	(черемис-влак)
English	Mari	Cheremis
German	Mari	Tscheremissen
Russian	марийцы	(черемисы)
Finnish	marit, marilaiset	(tšeremissit)
Estonian	marid, marilased	(tšeremissid)
Hungarian	marik	cseremiszek
Udmurt	мариецъёс	поръёс (черемисьёс)
Tatar	(марилар)	чирмешләр
Chuvash	(марисем)	çармăсsem

Population Statistics (Russia only)

	„Ethnic Mari“	Speakers	% Speakers / Ethnic Mari
2010	547 605	388 378	70.9
2002	604 298	?	80.7
1989	643 698	?	80.8
1979	599 637	?	86.7
1970	581 082	?	91.2
1959	498 006	?	95.1
1939	476 382	?	? (~ 100)
1926	428 001	?	? (~ 100)
1897	375 439	?	? (~ 100)

The Mari Traditional Religion



The Mari Traditional Religion



Pre-Russian Times

- ~660: Volga Bulgaria established
- 961: First recorded mention of the Maris (*цармис*)
- ~1240: Golden Horde established
Fall of Volga Bulgaria
- 1438: Russo-Kazan wars begin
- 1547: Ivan the Terrible takes throne



(Muscovy in late middle ages)

Integration into Russia



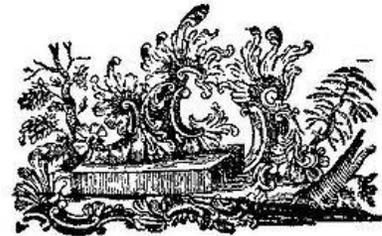
- 1551: Hill Maris join Muscovy
- 1552: Khanate of Kazan annexed
Cheremis Wars begin
- 1557: Cheremis Wars end



In Tsarist Russia

- 1707: Mari migration to East
- 1775: First Mari Grammar
- 1821: First Mari school opens (Morko)

СОЧИНЕНІЯ
ПРИНАДЛЕЖАЩІЯ
къ
ГРАММАТИКЪ
ЧЕРЕМИСКАГО ЯЗЫКА.



ВЪ САНТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГѢ
при Императорской Академіи наукъ
1775 года.

Russian Revolutions



Ватна губерния Салтак, Пашаза да ир-
стын Делугат шымачын Советашт ку-
мушы айра, саврт да икша рунтук-
тышк йушкыш йыш карген теге пу-
чал каласын.

шамычым милиция воч илэш лон-
гышаккак шуктушамым ончычак илэшт.

Адам буйым нелан очена. Мо-лиш?

Тыгodesь илэмашым ончалат да,
ортот вайы локтын. Икеш, у н-доч
вара, буйым нелан *„Мари увэр“*
локтын туналан калы. Кенета паша
пужлэн кайыш. *„Мари увэр“* буйыш
ик паша икеш ойгы толан логальы.
Моманы ойгы манен лодыда гын,
теге мыныш: „ик могор-гач ты-
годей тумалдыма паша шамыч то-
лан пазарашт, вара весь могор-
гач-казна-ши-булды кошкыш. Тиро-
графышты айтшы-бамыч“, — мо-
ланын акым ода эмарны ем,
мо оена йыны; типографышман
ик йылманан оидна ну“, манши
пашаштым кулалтышт. Вара шукы
кутырды-чи вара пашаштын шо-
ралыч, аштан туналышт. Туге ган-
нун, нуня мэмнан оынышт. Окны
1915-и-шты газатанан ик номеры
12—18 тыгте шога валь, 1916-и-
ашты—23—25 т., 1917-и-ашты—
45—49 т., 1918-и туналышты—
89—90 т., кыдыт—350 тыгте. 350
тыгте типографыш раскодж калы.
Тулочла адак раскод шукы: казга
ак, почта, эспедитор, корректор,
секретари да моль, пугы! Тудам
чолажыман поналтын колзет да,
ортот вайы локтын! 4000—5000 га-
зета пашы йыг кылыш. Кыдыт
моманы Мари увэрим илэш йыг
ик туком паре воль. Башкырак га-
зета пашыш муза. Башкырак 5000
йыг лажы! Тудам вара икшо локат
огна луд. *Куде Пумь* подлажы.

Редакция.

Кугыманаш паша.

Кыдыт кугыжаныш паша карген
мом каласешат от шинчы. Мэмнан
куты Россей-гач можж колши, ту-
лалт палы огай. *Иреш* олашты
мэмнан кугырак-пашыч пашыч-лаш
„Мариш“ шитен толанышт. Туге
гынат, пашыч чарыды мамнан ола-
шамычым неланак шога. Пымчыш
чаран мэмнан салтак моль узо.

„Лонкар“ маншк армия улш да,
тулат паша шыгал. Туды адык паша
нел олаштыш *„Иреш“*—шамы-
чым пазарон толаныш. Кыдыт ода
лода руш калык шез кокта каро-
далыш. Паша-илэмаш-валтак пуж-
лэн шуй. Мо ливш? Йымот палы
огай. Россей-доч фин-шамыч ой-
рлат. Сибирь ойраш. Малороссей
кайыш. Зет-шамыч, латыш-шамыч,
литва номыч кидеш бурат. Калык
комесар-шамыч Москвашкы илэш
тодыш уктат. Петроградшты илэш
оган ли, маншот. Кугы олаштыш
кочкыш-йуш йымо узо, маншот.
Ваткашпашт уржа кидан кромыжы
2 тыгте 50 ар, йужж лынкашты
3 тыгтемыж йдыт. Олаштыш бу-
точ илэш. Мо ливш? Палы огай.
Йомына мо вара?!

Губерна увэр-шамыч.

*** Ватна губерния Мари шезла
шамычынты толпан шыкылан ту-
ныктыш-шамыч мари-гач ливж,
маншк весь чрептышман сьезд
пуччал мутыш шондыш. Паша вшы-
к шукыш-кутын тунактыш-шамыч-
ым йамдылаш вольыш.

„Истород. отид. народ. образ.“
теды пашам тыг вордышкыж шук-
тан шона:

1) *Шэрнурум* төнэй шыкылан
Мари учительска семинарий —
почаш шона.

2) конжеком — *„идеологическые
курсы“* маншк школам почаш. Туш-
ка 100-йыл-гач—150-йыл марто по-
гыжыж.

Туды *„идеологическые курсы“*
шез туземаш турын шондыш (Га-
рамашат-орыбашты): пурйыном валь,
надышт валь* — маншк прошением
возыш—*Ватна губернияшты Мари
калыком почын-шундыжэн нелан-
тышк пашам булалын комитет-
шалан* паша кылыш. Промениеж
марла дин гынат йра.

Туды курсышкы: а) второклассная
школам, б) высшее начальное учи-
лищем төмен локшы-шамыч, в) да,
в) тузем-школа-шамычым итбаро-
дык учительшан шондыш-шамыч
туземаш турын кыртят.

— „Тунеман пурэм“ маншк паш
ваше прошением пужж. Отвэтдан—

• 1905–1907: Russian Revolution of 1905

• 1907: First Mari Calendar

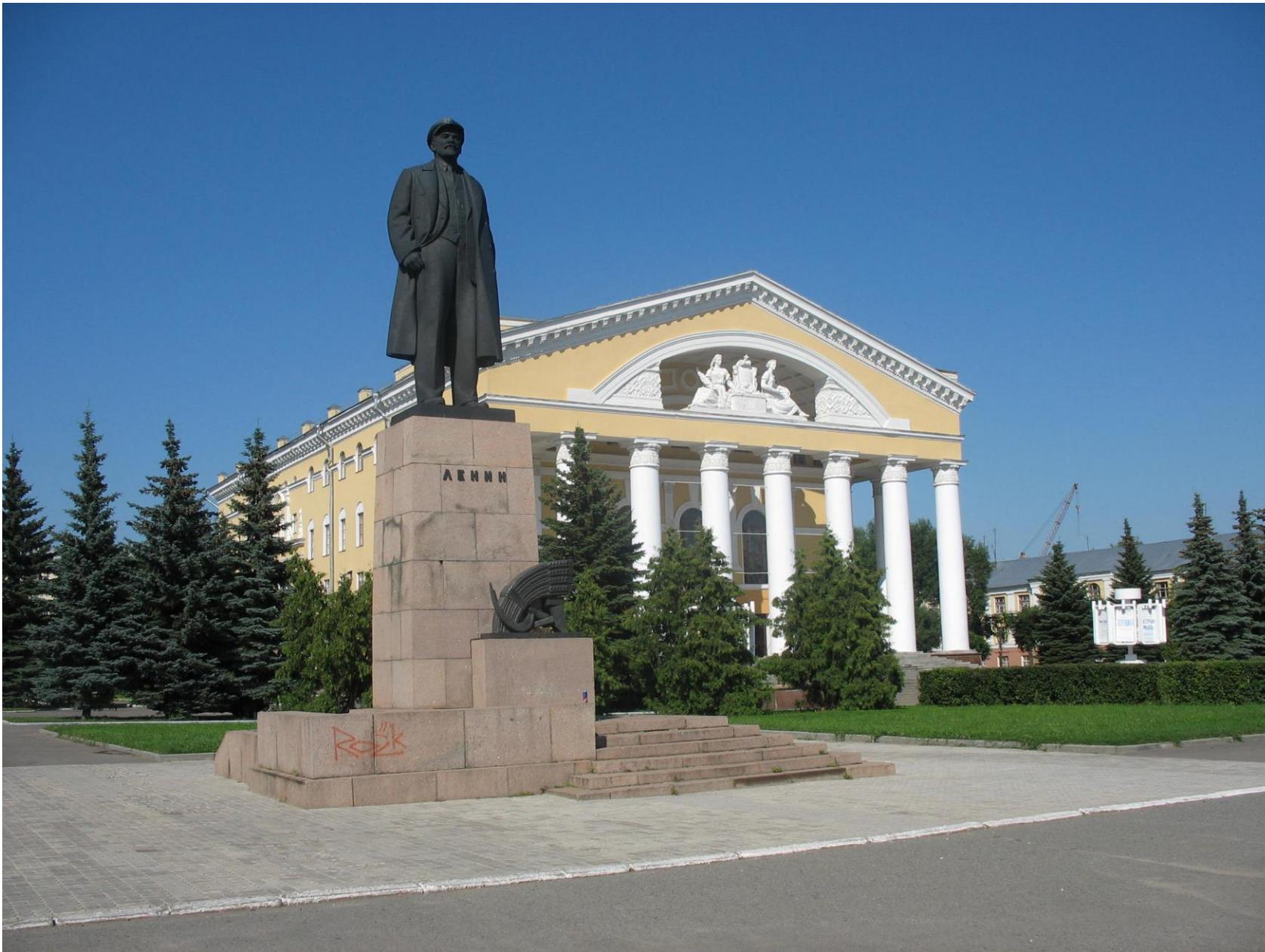
• 1915: First Mari Newspaper (“Война увэр”)

• 1917: October Revolution

First All-Russian Mari Council
Russian Civil War begins

Soviet Russia

- 1918: Soviet (local) victory
- 1919: Mari Theatre established
- 1920: Mari Autonomous Oblast
- 1936: Mari ASSR (Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic)



The Great Purge

- 1937+: † Sergey Chavayn,
Shabdar Osyp,
Yyvan Kyrla, Yakov
Shketan, Olyk
Ipay,
Patrash Vasli, ...



The Great Purge



Sergei Chavain, 1888–1937

- 16 June 1936: “Сталинлан”

“[...]”

*А кызыт автолан мунчалтыш –
Суран гай шыма у шоссе.*

*Но эн чапле, эн моктышашлык –
У калык кушкеш элешна,
У илыш адак сай лийшашлык,
Элнаже эре кугешна!”*

- 11 November 1937: †

The Great Purge



Sergei Chavain, 1888–1937

- 16 June 1936: “To Stalin”

“[...]

Now the cars can glide –

On a highway smooth as leather.

But most glorious, most laudible –

A new people are growing in our land,

The new life will become good again,

Our country is ever proud!”

- 11 November 1937: †

Later Soviet Union

- March 1953: † Joseph Stalin
- 1953–1964: Khrushchev Thaw
- 1964–1985: Era of Stagnation
- 1985–1991: Perestroika and Glasnost

Post-Soviet Times

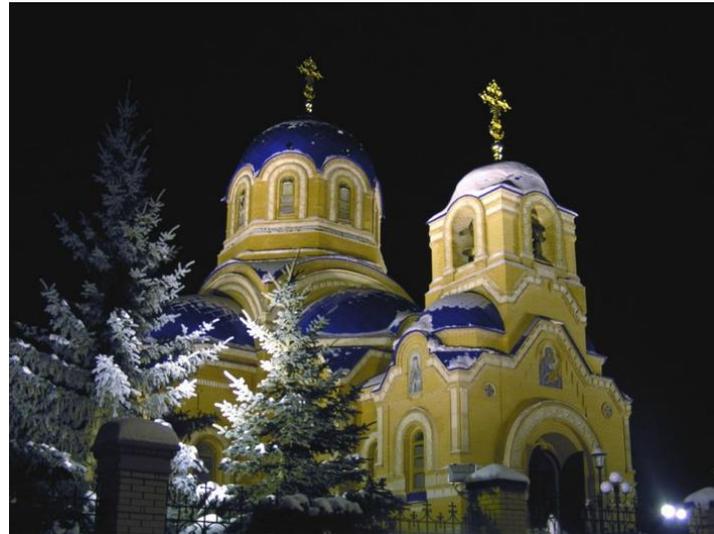
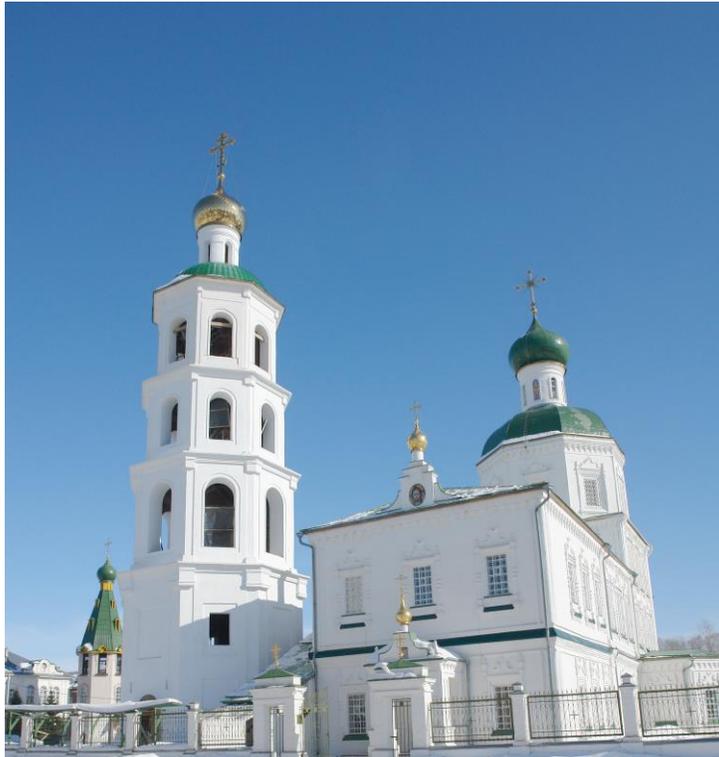
- 1990–: Mari El Republic

Presidents / Heads:

- 1991–1997: Vladislav Zotin (communist party)
- 1997–2001: Vyacheslav Kislitsyn (communist party)
- 2001–2017: Leonid Markelov (LDPR → United Russia)
- 2017–: Aleksandr Yevstifeyev (United Russia)



Yoshkar-Ola (“Red City”)





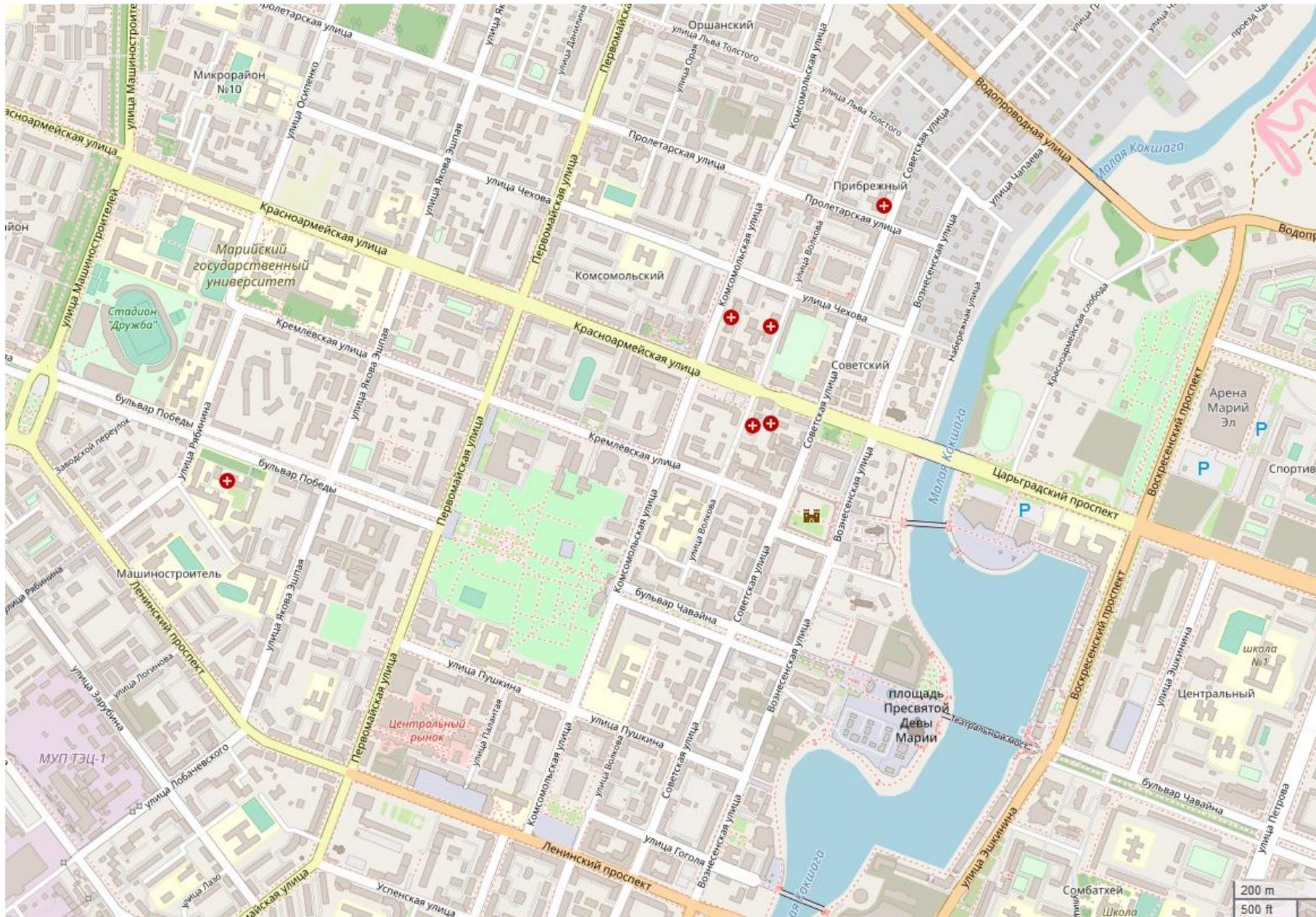
(Yoshkar-Ola National Art Gallery)



(Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly)

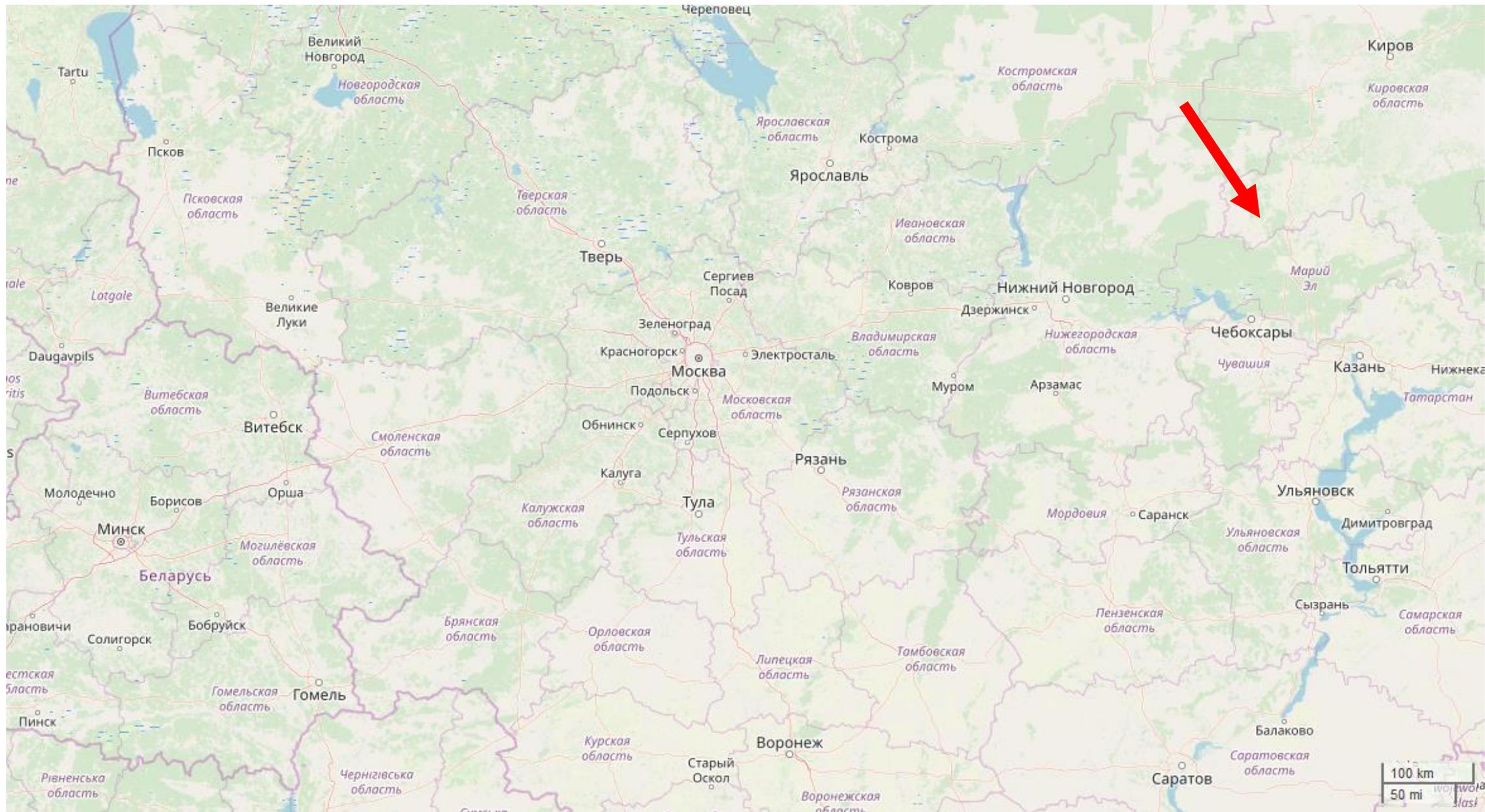


(Yoshkar-Ola Kremlin)



Mari El Republic





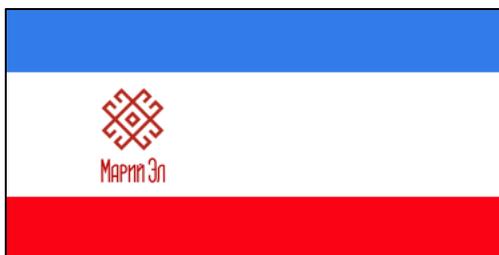
Flags



2011–

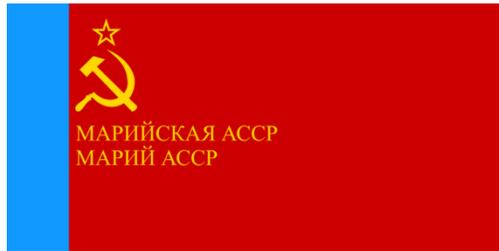


2006–2011



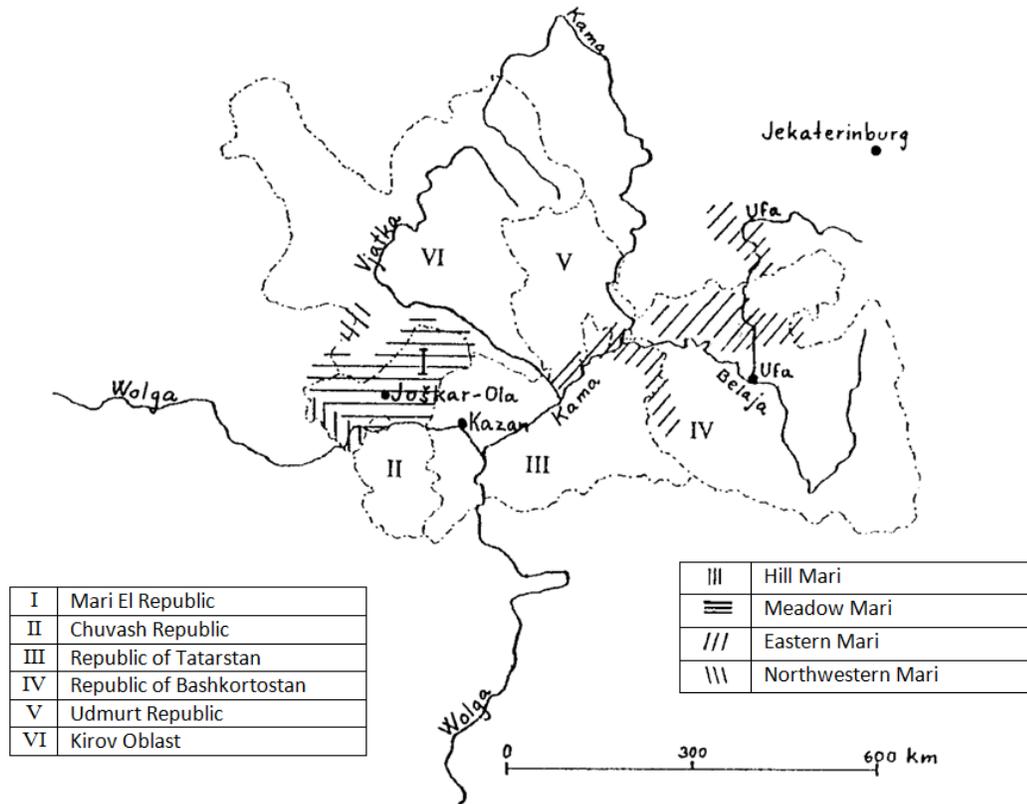
1992–2006

Flags



1978 –1991

Mari Within and Without the Mari El Republic



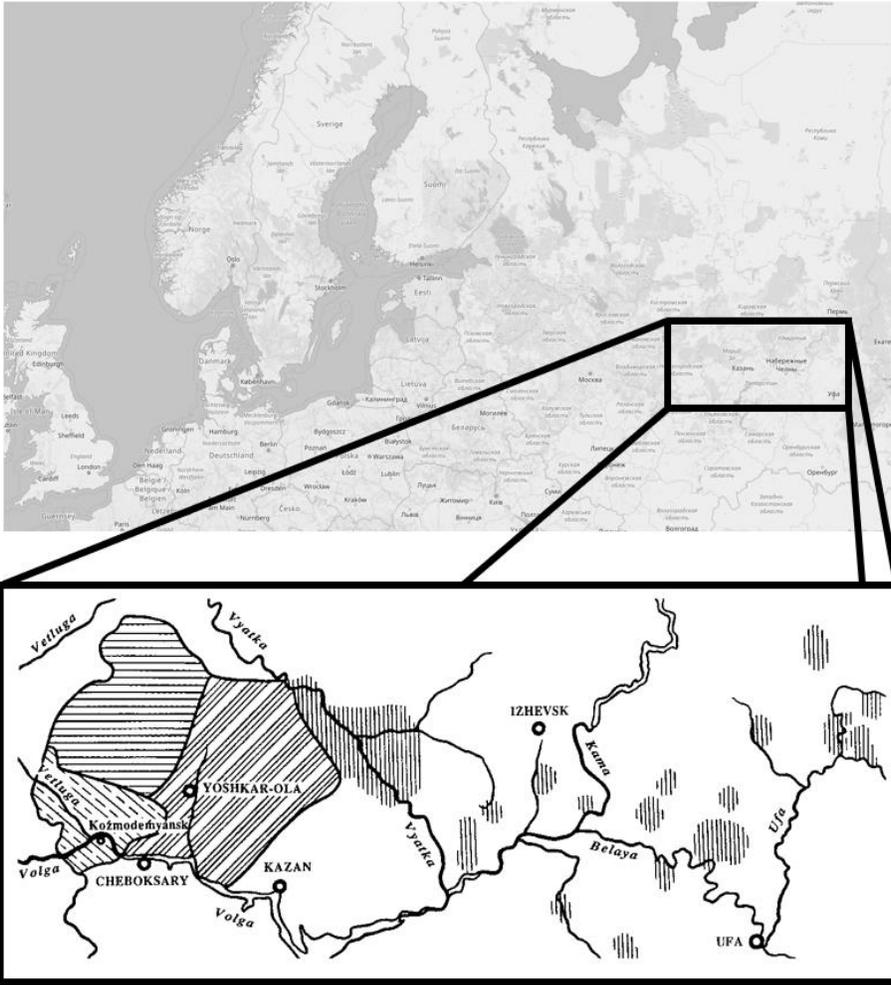
Demographics of Mari El (2010 census):

313,947	Russians	(47.4%)
290,863	Mari	(43.9%)
38,357	Tatars	(5.8%)
6,025	Chuvash	(0.9%)
13,138	Others	(2.0%)

Demographics of Russia (2010 census):

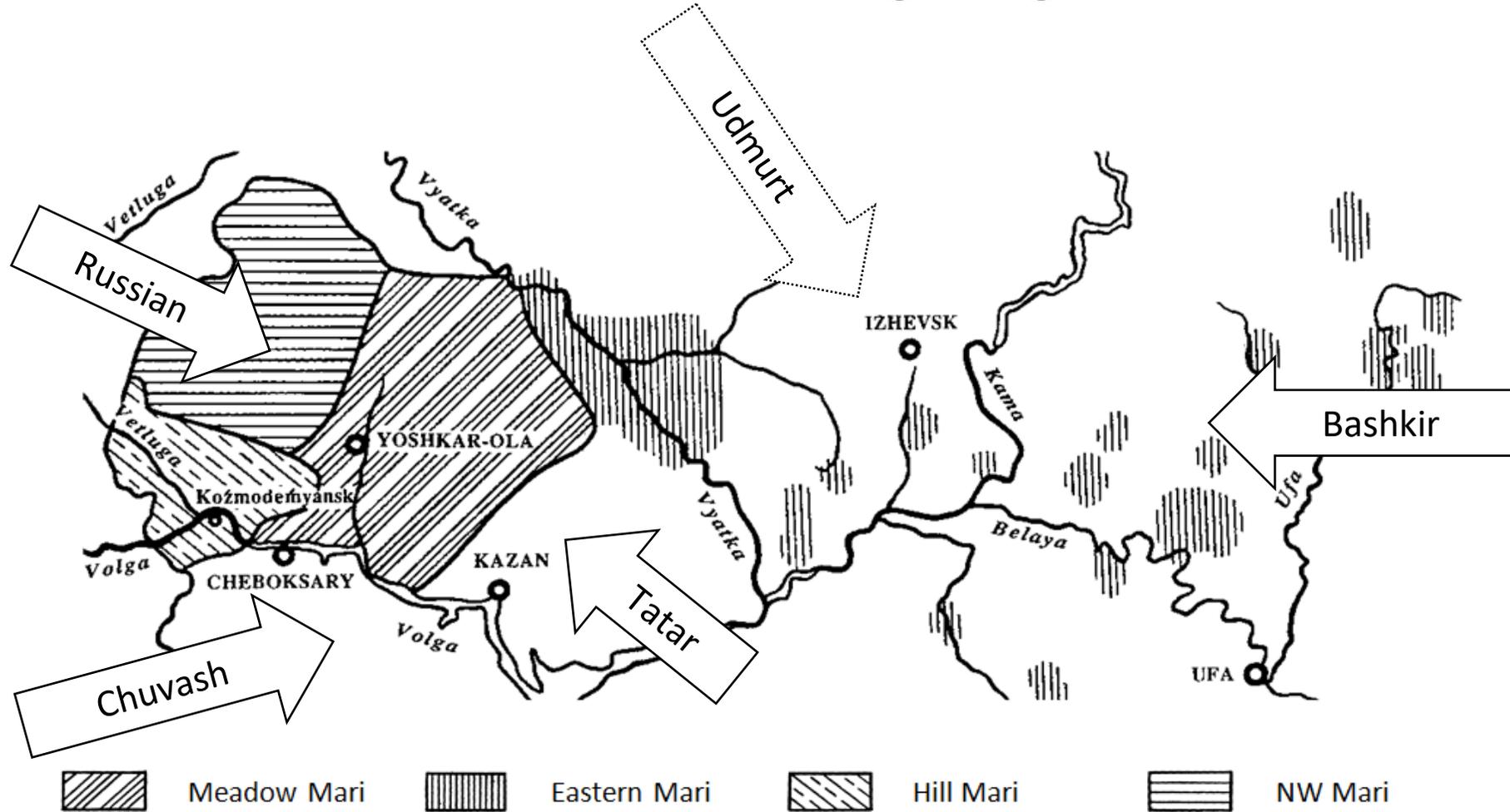
547,605 Mari

Mari Varieties

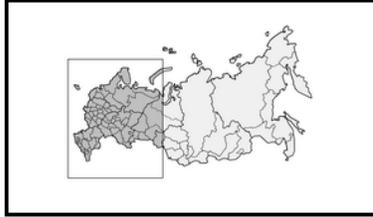


Literary Standard	Dialect	Speakers
Meadow-Eastern Mari	 Meadow Mari	365 000
	 Eastern Mari	
	 Northwestern Mari	
Hill Mari	 Hill Mari	23 000

Contact languages



Volga-Kama Sprachbund



Turkic core members (diagonal lines):

- 1) Tatarstan (Tatar)
- 2) Chuvashia (Chuvash)
- 3) Bashkortostan (Bashkir)

Finno-Ugric core members (dark dots):

- 4) Mari El (Mari)
- 5) Udmurtia (Udmurt)

Finno-Ugric peripheral members (light dots):

- 6) Mordovia (Mordvin)
- 7) Komi (Komi)

Vocabulary

Hill Mari	Meadow Mari	Translation
тетя (cf. Russian дитя)	йоча (cf. Chuvash ача)	child
өлицä (cf. Russian улица)	урем (cf. Tatar and Chuvash урам)	street
охырец (cf. Russian огурец)	кияр (cf. Persian [xiyâr])	cucumber
пумага (cf. Russian бумага)	кагаз (cf. Persian [kâğaz])	paper
веремä (cf. Russian время)	пагыт (cf. Arabic [waqt])	time
цäш (cf. Russian час/часы)	шагат (cf. Arabic [sā'a])	clock; watch; hour
свет (cf. Russian свет)	түня (cf. Arabic [dunyā])	world

Sound Inventory: Consonants (UPA)

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dento-Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	Voiceless	p		t		t'	k
	Voiced	b		d			g
Fricative	Voiceless		(f)				χ
	Voiced	β	(v)	ð			ɣ
Sibilant	Voiceless			s	š		
	Voiced			z	ž		
Affricate				c	č	č'	
Nasal		m		n		n'	ŋ
Lateral				l		l'	
Trill				r			
Approximant						j	

Just Hill Mari

Just Meadow Mari

Sound Inventory: Vowels (UPA)

	Front		Central		Back	
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	i	ü				u
Mid	e	ö	ə		ê	o
Open	ä				a	

Just Hill Mari

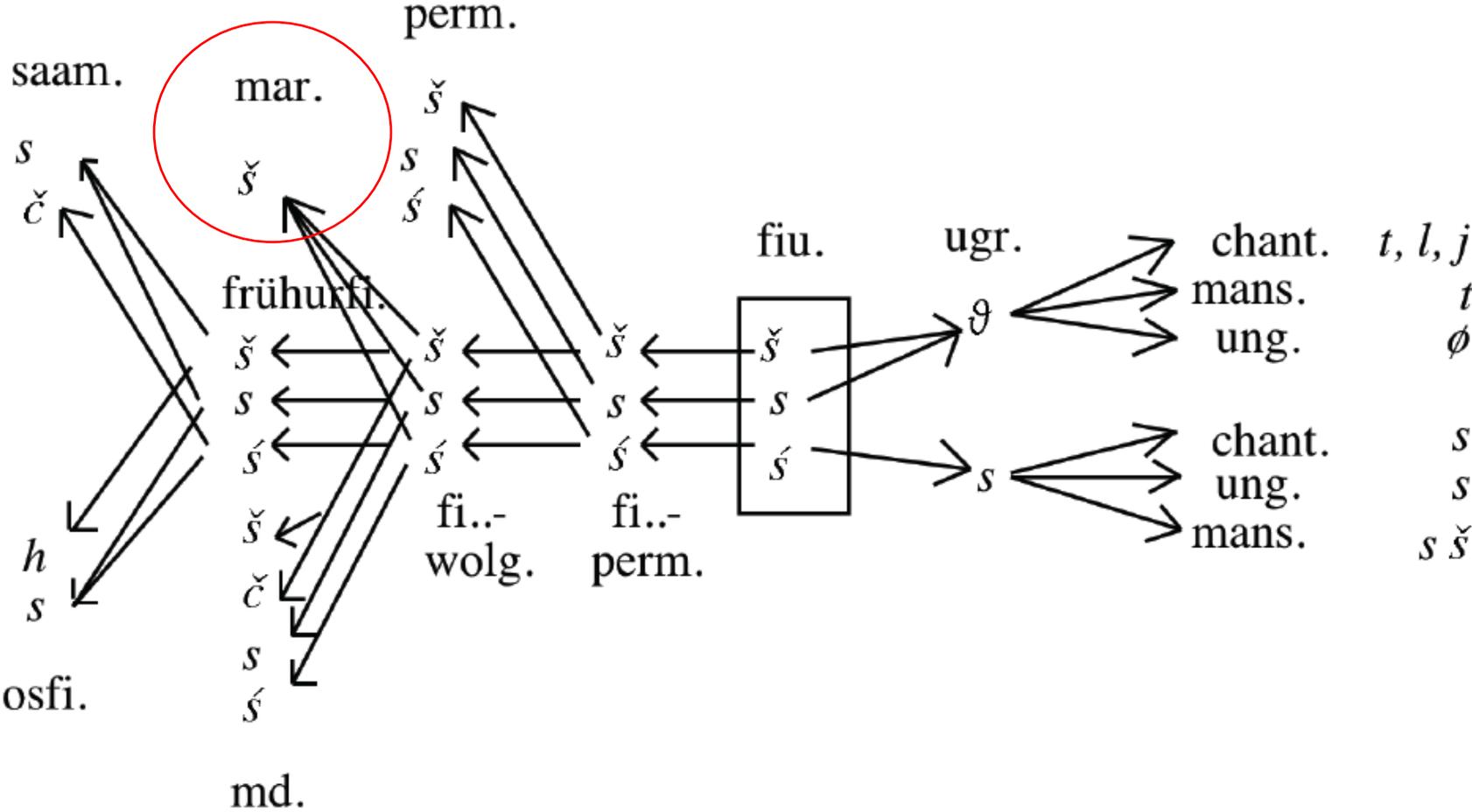
Phonology

- No distinctive vowel length; geminate consonants only at morpheme boundary
- Reduced vowels:
 - *курык* /kurêk/ ‘hill, mountain’
 - *олык* /olêk/ ‘meadow’
 - *туныктышо* /tunêktêšoê/ ‘teacher’
 - *пöртыштö* /pörtêštöê/ ‘in the house’
 - *йылымдымылыкыштыже* /jêlmêdêmêlêkêštêžê/ ‘in her/his aphasia (lit. tonguelessness)’

Phonology

- NO first syllable stress
 - Meadow Mari: last full vowel (usually) stressed (if there is one) :
 - *йолта•ш* /jolta•š/ ‘friend’
 - *пеледе•ш* /pelede•s/ ‘it blossoms’
 - *пеле•дын* /pele•dân/ ‘it blossomed’
 - *йы•лмыдымылыкыштыже* /jâ•lmêdêmlêkâštêžê/ ‘in her/his aphasia (lit. tonguelessness)’
 - Hill Mari: penultimate syllable (usually) stressed

Spirants



Spirants

Finnish	Mari (M ~ H)	Hungarian	
s yli 'fathom'	š üLö ~ š əl 'fathom'	_ öl 'fathom'	< Ur. * s üli (* s üle)
s ata '100'	š üdö ~ š üdə '100'	sz áz '100'	< ?Fiu. * š ata < Indoir. *śata-m (< leu. *k'ṃtó-m)
h ihna 'strap'	š üštö ~ š əštə 'leather'	-	< Balt., cf. Lit. š ikšnà

Spirants

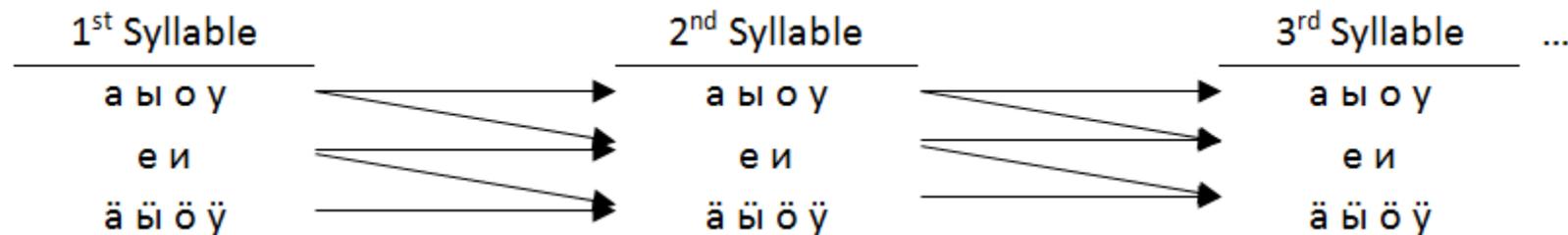
- *шошо* /šošo^{ə̃}/ ‘spring’
- *шүшпык* /šüšpâk/ ‘nightingale’
- *ыштышт* /âštâšt/ ‘they should do’
- *шымше* /šâmše^{ə̃}/ ‘seventh’
- [...]

Vowel Harmony

- In Meadow and Eastern Mari:
 - “Originally” only suffixal vowel harmony: illabial (/e/) vs. labial (/o/ & /ö/), for labial vowels also velar (/o/) vs. palatal (/ö/). E.g. inessive -(ы)шт(e/o/ö):
 - эл /el/ ‘land’ → элыштe /elâšt^e/ ‘in the land’
 - школ /škol/ ‘school’ → школыштo /školâšt^o/ ‘in the school’
 - пöрт /pört/ ‘house’ → пöртыштö /pörtâšt^ö/ ‘in the house’
 - Unstressed vowels are reduced (→ centralized); extent depends on dialect
 - элыштe /elâšt^e/ → /elâšt^{e̞}/ → /elâšt^{ə̞}/
 - школыштo /školâšt^o/ → /školâšt^{o̞}/ → /školâšt^{ə̞}/
 - пöртыштö /pörtâšt^ö/ → /pörtâšt^{ö̞}/ → /pörtâšt^{ə̞}/
 - Under Turkic influence development of illabial ~ labial vowel harmony within stems (orthographically unmarked):
 - корем /korem/ ‘ravine’ ~ пöлем /pøløm/ ‘room’
 - !! ер дек /jer dek/ ‘to the lake’ ~ кÿтÿ дек /kyty døk/ ‘to the herd’

Vowel Harmony

- In Hill Mari:
 - Palato-velar vowel harmony:
 - *толаш* /tolaš/ ‘to come’
 - *пäläш* /päläš/ ‘to know’
 - “Palatal attraction”: /e/ and /i/ can occur after velar vowels, but then vowels that follow them are palatal: *кужикä* /kužikä/ ‘somewhat long’, but **күжика* /küžika/.



Case

	Meadow Mari	Hill Mari
Nominative	∅	∅
Genitive	-(ê)n	-(ə)n
Accusative	-(ы)m	-(ə)m
Dative	-lan	-lAn
Lative	-(ê)š	-eš
Illative	-(ê)š(kEê)	-(bl)š(kə)
Inessive	-(ê)ште	-(ə)štə
Comparative	-la	-lA (< Chuvash!)
Comitative	-Ge	-Ge
Caritative	-	-De

Vowel harmonic alternation:

E: e ~ o ~ ö

G: ɣ ~ k

D: δ ~ t

ə: ə ~ ê

A: a ~ ä

Case?

- E.g. Postposition *ðek* /dek ~ tek/ ‘to’:
 - Assimilation and vowel harmony across orthographic word boundary:
 - *ep ðek* /jer dek/ ‘to the lake’
 - *ep-влак ðek* /jer-βlak tek/ ‘to the lakes’
 - Eastern Mari *күтӱ ðek* /kyty døk/ ‘to the herd’
 - Idiosyncratic forms when connected to personal pronouns:
 - *мый ðекем* /mâj dekem/ (I.NOM to.PX1SG) ‘to me’
 - *тудын ðек* /tudên dek/ (s/he.GEN to) ‘to her/him’

„Today’s morphology is yesterday’s syntax.“

– Talmy (Thomas) Givón

Number

- No dual
- Multiple nominal plural suffixes in dialectal and functional distribution:
 - *кече* /keĉe/ ‘day’ > *кече-влак* /keĉe-βlak/ ~ *кече-шамыч* /keĉe-šamêč/ ‘days’
 - *ола* /ola/ ‘city’ > *олалаште* /olalašte/ ‘in the cities’ (short form, primarily with local cases and postpositions)
 - *ава* /aβa/ ‘mother’ > *авамыт* /aβamêt/ ‘mother and her friends/family’ (associative plural)
- Order of number suffix (Nx) and possessive suffix (Px) can vary:
 - *мут-влакэм* /mut-βlakem/ ~ *мутем-влак* /mutem-βlak/ ‘my words’

Possessive Suffixes

чон 'soul' >

	Sg		Pl
1	чонем /čonem/	чонна	/čonna/
2	чонет /čonet/	чонда	/čonda/
3	чонжо /čonžo/	чонышт	/čonâšt/

Possessive Suffixes

Px + Cx: чонем /čonem/ 'my soul' >

Nominative:	чонем	/čonem/	
Genitive:	чонемын	/čonemân/	
Accusative:	чонемым	/čonemâm/	
Dative:	чонемлан	/čonemlan/	~ чонланем /čonlanem/
Lative:	чонешем	/čonešem/	
Illative:	чонышкем	/čonêškem/	
Inessive:	чоныштем	/čonêštem/	
Comparative:	чонемла	/čonemla/	~ чонлам /čonlam/
Comitative:	чонемге	/čonemɣe/	

Possessive Suffixes

- Secondary (?) usages:

- 1SG & 3SG: Vocative (for some kinship terms)

- *үдырем* /*üdêrem*/ '(my) daughter'

- *ачаже* /*ačaže*/ (used by women to address their husbands – literally 'her/his father')

- 2SG & 3SG: Determining / Reference tracking

paša-na-že

uda-n

kaj-a

work-PX1PL-PX3SG

bad-ADV

go-3SG

'our work isn't going well'

- 3SG & 3PL: '... of them'

- *иктыже* /*iktêže*/ ... *весиже* /*βesêže*/ 'the one ... the other' (one-PX3SG ... other-PX3SG)

- *южышт* /*južêšt*/ 'some of them' (some-PX3PL)

Tense

- Present (also future), simple past tenses I & II, compound past tenses I–IV
- tüŋal- ‘to begin’:
 - kutâr-aš tüŋal-am
 - speak-INF begin-PRS.1SG
 - ‘I will speak’

Tense

tol- 'to come' >

	Present	Simple past I	Simple past II	Compound past tense I	Compound past tense II	Compound past tense III	Compound past tense IV
1SG	tolam	tol'âm	tolânam	tolam âl'e	tolam ulmaš	tolânam âl'e	tolânam ulmaš
2SG	tolat	tol'âč	tolânat	tolat âl'e	tolat ulmaš	tolânat âl'e	tolânat ulmaš
3SG	toleš	tol'o	tolân	toleš âl'e	toleš ulmaš	tolân âl'e	tolân ulmaš
1PI	tolâna	tolna	tolâнна	tolâna âl'e	tolâna ulmaš	tolâнна âl'e	tolâнна ulmaš
2PI	tolâda	tolda	tolânda	tolâda âl'e	tolâda ulmaš	tolânda âl'e	tolânda ulmaš
3PI	tolât	tol'âč	tolânât	tolât âl'e	tolât ulmaš	tolânât âl'e	tolânât ulmaš

âl'e 'was' (simple past I), ulmaš (simple past II)

Tenses

- Simple past tenses:

I	II
“immediate observations of happenings or actions”	“non-witnessed past”
“great vivacity”, “clarity”	“long-lasting activity”, “may correspond to the imperfective aspect in Russian”
“rapidly occurring and rapidly completed activity”	
“to indicate activities that occur in succession”	“the result of activities completed in the past”, with the effects of said activity persisting to the moment of speech in some, but not all, cases
“on occasion indicate long-lasting activities that have, however, been completed by the moment of speech”	
“such an activity that occurred recently, in close proximity to the moment of speech”	“an action that happened long ago”

Tense

- Compound past tenses:

	... âl'e 'was' (in simple past I)	... ulmaš 'was' (in simple past II)
Present (tolat 'you come') + ...	I: tolat âl'e 'you used to come'	II: tolat ulmaš 'it turns out you used to come'
Simple past II (tolânat 'you came') + ...	III: tolânat âl'e 'you were coming'	IV: tolânat ulmaš 'it turns out you were coming'

Mood

- Indicative
- Imperative (not in 1SG)
- Desiderative (in -не /-ne/): *толне* /tolne/ ‘I want to come’
- Various periphrastic modal constructions, e.g.:

koč-m-em

eat-PTCP.PASS-PX1SG

šu-eš

arrive-PRS.3SG

‘I don’t want to eat’ (lit. ‘My eaten does not arrive’)

Non-Finite Verbal Forms

	Suffix	pale- 'to know'
Infinitive	-aš	palaš 'to know'
Necessitive infinitive	-man	palâman '... must know'
Active participle	-šE	palâše 'knowing' (used adjectivally)
Passive participle	-mE	palâme 'known'
Future-necessitive participle	-šaš	palâšaš 'to be known'
Negative participle	-DâmE	palâdâme 'unknowing; unknown'
Affirmative instructive gerund	-ân / -en	palen 'knowing' (used adverbially)
Negative gerund	-De	palâde 'without knowing'
Gerund of prior action	-mek(e)	palâmek(e) 'after knowing'
Gerund of future action	-meš(ke)	palâmeš(ke) 'before knowing'
Gerund of simultaneous action	-šâla	palâsâla 'while knowing'
Nominalization	-maš	palâmaš 'knowing'
Negative nominalization	-Dâmaš	palâdâmaš 'not knowing'

Converb Constructions

‘Лучо вашкерак иктым темен пу, йӱын колтем, иезуит-влак манмыла, ad majorem dei gloriam.’

lučo	βaške	-rak	iktâ	-m
better	quick	-COMP	one	-ACC
adv	adv	-deg	nm	-case

tem	-en	pu	-∅,
fill	-CVB	give	-IMP.2SG
v	-adv	v	-mood.pers

jü	-ân	kolt	-em,
drink	-CVB	let.go	-1SG
v	-adv	v	-pers

ijezuit	-βlak	man	-mâ	-la,	ad	majorem	dei	gloriam.
Jesuit	-PL	say	-PTCP.PASS	-COMP	***			
n	-num	v	-adj	-case	***			

‘Better fill one up for me (lit. filling give) quickly; I’ll drink it down (lit. drinking send), as the Jesuits say, ad majorem dei gloriam.’

Studying Mari

- www.mari-language.com
- www.copius.eu

The Mari Summer School

Summer School of the Mari Language and Culture

(Yoshkar-Ola, 7–27 July 2014)

„Mari State University is happy to announce annual **Summer School of Mari Language and Culture** organized in Yoshkar-Ola – the capital of the Mari El Republic. In 2014 for the first time the Summer School of the Mari Language and Culture will run for two weeks in Yoshkar-Ola, the Mari El Republic, and for one week in the Mari village, the Republic of Bashkortostan.“

Пеш кугу тау!

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