

Finrandogo tekisuto 1. Matsumura Kazuto, Finrandogo bupō. 111 p. 2. Matsumura Kazuto, Finrandogo tokuhon. 86 p. 3. Matsumura Kazuto, Okuda Raija, Finrandogo kaiwa bunreishū. 65 p., Tōkyō Gaikokugo Daigaku, Ajia Afurika Gengo Bunka Kenkyūjo, 1983.

It is not an everyday event that a textbook of a Finno-Ugric language is published in the Far East. Kazuto Matsumura has written and compiled a textbook of Finnish for Japanese learners. The publishing house is that of the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The textbook consists of three parts: 1. A Grammar of the Finnish Language, 2. A Reader in Finnish, and 3. Examples of Conversational Finnish, the last of the series has been written in cooperation with Raija Okuda. It should be noted that although the title is in Japanese, the series has not been written for Japanese learners only. Throughout the series the vocabulary is explained in English, which makes it, in principle, possible that the series could be used also by non-Japanese learners elsewhere in Asia.

The textbook does not have a preface containing suggestions on how the textbook could be used, therefore one cannot say whether there is also any tape-recorded material available or whether the instructor should rely on his own performance.

The grammar opens with a brief introduction where the Finnish alphabet and a number of exercises on the pronunciation of vowels, consonants, gradation and vowel harmony are given. The grammar proper consists of 46 sections of graded material. It begins with elementary material such as how to say *yes* and *no* or *I have, he has* in Finnish and proceeds to such grammar items as the numeral, degrees of comparison, declension, the formation of conditional sentences, to name only a few. The number of explanatory notes has been kept to a minimum, much space is allotted to sentences where one part of the sentence is repeated and the other part is varied.

Part 2 presents varieties of written Finnish. It contains 55 texts which have been taken from a variety of sources; textbooks, readers as well as various news-

papers and magazines. In addition to sources published in Finland also a number of Soviet editions printed in Petrozavodsk have been used: «Karjalaisia satuja» (1977), the textbooks by M. Sevander (1976, 1978) and M. Mullonen (1981). The reading material is varied, the texts cover a wide range of subjects — thus one can find folk-tales, recipes, scientific texts, humorous stories, anecdotes, etc. and even an item dealing with psychiatric counselling. Many of them contain useful background information about the Finnish language and Finland. The first ten texts are provided with vocabulary notes. In the opinion of the reviewer the reader has been well compiled.

Part 3 is an introduction to spoken Finnish. It is divided into 25 sections. Here, too, the first ten sections are provided with vocabulary notes. This volume is intended to show how spoken Finnish is used in everyday situations — such as shopping, asking the way, in sports, at the doctor's, at meals, etc. A great number of sentences are supplied with alternative possibilities which enables the learner to choose the one that suits him best at the moment. The book also contains lists of public notices and road signs. This volume, in particular, might have been accompanied with some recorded material to enable learners to hear the pronunciation of a variety of speakers as well as examples of unrehearsed conversations.

A list of Errata has been added to each volume.

On the whole, it can be said that the series is a serviceable introduction to Finnish grammar as well as to the written and spoken varieties of the language. In conclusion the reviewer would like to express the hope that learners in Japan will find the textbook useful and that Japanese linguists will find time to produce further textbooks and study-aids of Finno-Ugric languages.

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