

Anton Pyrerka: looking into the past

By Anastasia Orlova, 1st grade student of

Nenets Agrarian Economic Technical School

Research advisers: Ludmila Khozyainova, Olga Braginet

Today we live in a dynamic world of rapidly evolving technologies. Striding confidently into the future, we often do not look back into the past. However, we should not forget about the great men of our history. One of them is Anton Petrovich Pyrerka, whose contribution to the development of science and culture of the Northern indigenous peoples is hard to overestimate.

The aim of this study is to determine the youth's familiarity with the life and works of Anton Pyrerka.

Anton Petrovich is the first Nenets scientist. He is the author of unique works in the field of lexicography, Nenets reindeer terminology and ethnography.

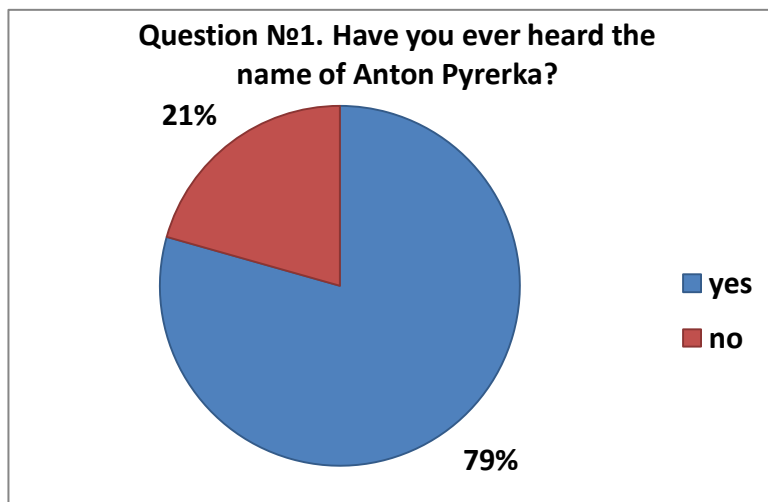
The scientist was born in Bolshezemelskaya tundra December 7, 1905 in the family of a poor reindeer breeder Petr Pyrerka. At the age of twenty-one by the recommendation of Arkhangelsk Committee of the North Anton entered the Communist University of the Toilers of the East. After its graduation Anton worked as a researcher at the Institute of Language and Thought.

In the middle of the 1940 he finished his work on the «Russian-Nenets dictionary» with volume of 15 000 words. Anton Pyrerka is the author of textbooks and teaching aids for Nenets schools, three anthologies of Nenets fairy tales, he also translated in the Nenets language Pushkin's fairy tales and other works of Russian literature.

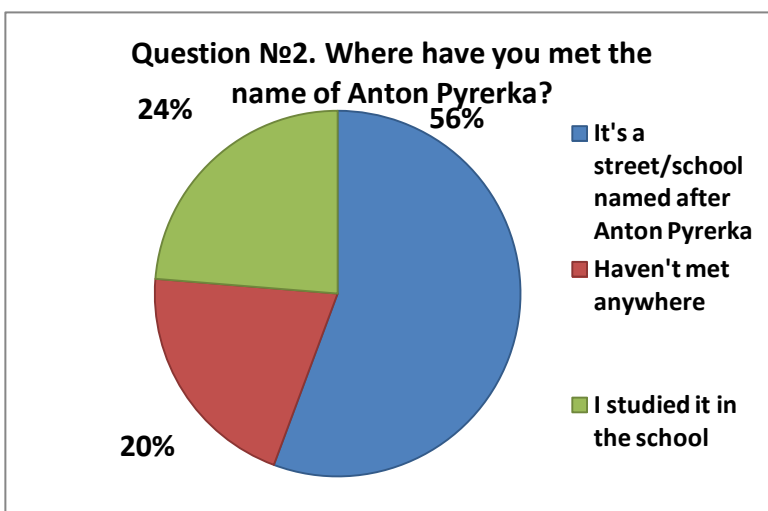
1940 by Anton Pyrerka also wrote an autobiographical novel «The youngest son of Vedo» which won the competition for the best literary work in the languages of indigenous peoples of the North.

By the beginning of the 1941st Anton Pyrerka finished his thesis, the study of Nenets epic songs. It had an enclosure with his collection of songs, the most complete anthology of existing ones at that time. But the thesis wasn't presented, Russia was involved into the world war. Anton Pyrerka went to the front as an ordinary soldier of the 10th Infantry Division. In the autumn of the same year, defending Leningrad from the Nazi invaders, he died in the ranks of the people's militia in the area of Strelna. He was buried in a mass grave.

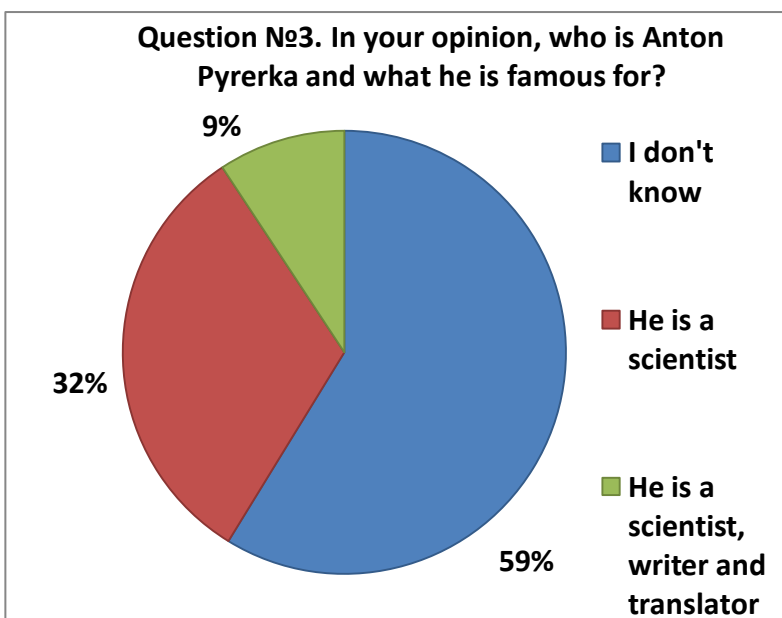
To find out if young people are familiar with life and works of Anton Pyrerka we decided to conduct this study. The special questionnaire was developed for the study. The survey involved 97 first-grade students from Nenets Agrarian Economic Technical School. The results of the survey are presented in diagrams. As shown in diagram 1, the most students are familiar with the name of Anton Pyrerka, but 21% of respondents have heard this name for the first time.



Analyzing the answers to the question 2 we found out that more than half of the students associate it with the street or school, named after the scientist.



When we asked the students to specify their answers and tell us who is Anton Pyrerka and what he is famous for, 59% of respondents were in doubt. Almost a third of respondents said that Anton Pyrerka is a scientist. And only 9% were able to give the specified answer.



Analyzing the survey results, we can see that the majority of today's young people associate the name of Anton Pyrerka with streets and schools names. More than half of respondents know nothing about this personality.

I believe that young people should be more interested in their regional history and culture. Information technologies, in my opinion, could be one of solutions in this situation. Therefore I suggest:

1. To digitalize books and manuscripts written by Anton Pyrerka;
2. To create a site dedicated to the life and works of the scientist;
3. To create educational films about Anton Pyrerka.

One of the results of this work is an educational video about the life and work of Anton Pyrerka.