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# ENETS WRITING

A joint project by the Expert Center for Arctic Development and the Siberian Federal University aimed at designing of, and seeking an official recognition for, the Enets writing



Until last year the Enets were the only people in the Russian Arctic without their own written language.



# What does it feel like to live without books?



# How can you learn the history and culture of your people?



**An Enets boy, Dia, tells his friend Kati how the world was created.**

**According to the Enets legend, the first man on Earth named Moreo lived off hunting wild reindeer**



As centuries passed, people domesticated reindeer. A clan was formed around the reindeer herd, and that is how the human society came into being



**But some people wanted to live separately, and dissociate from their own kind. So they started hunting wild reindeer again like their forefather Moreo**

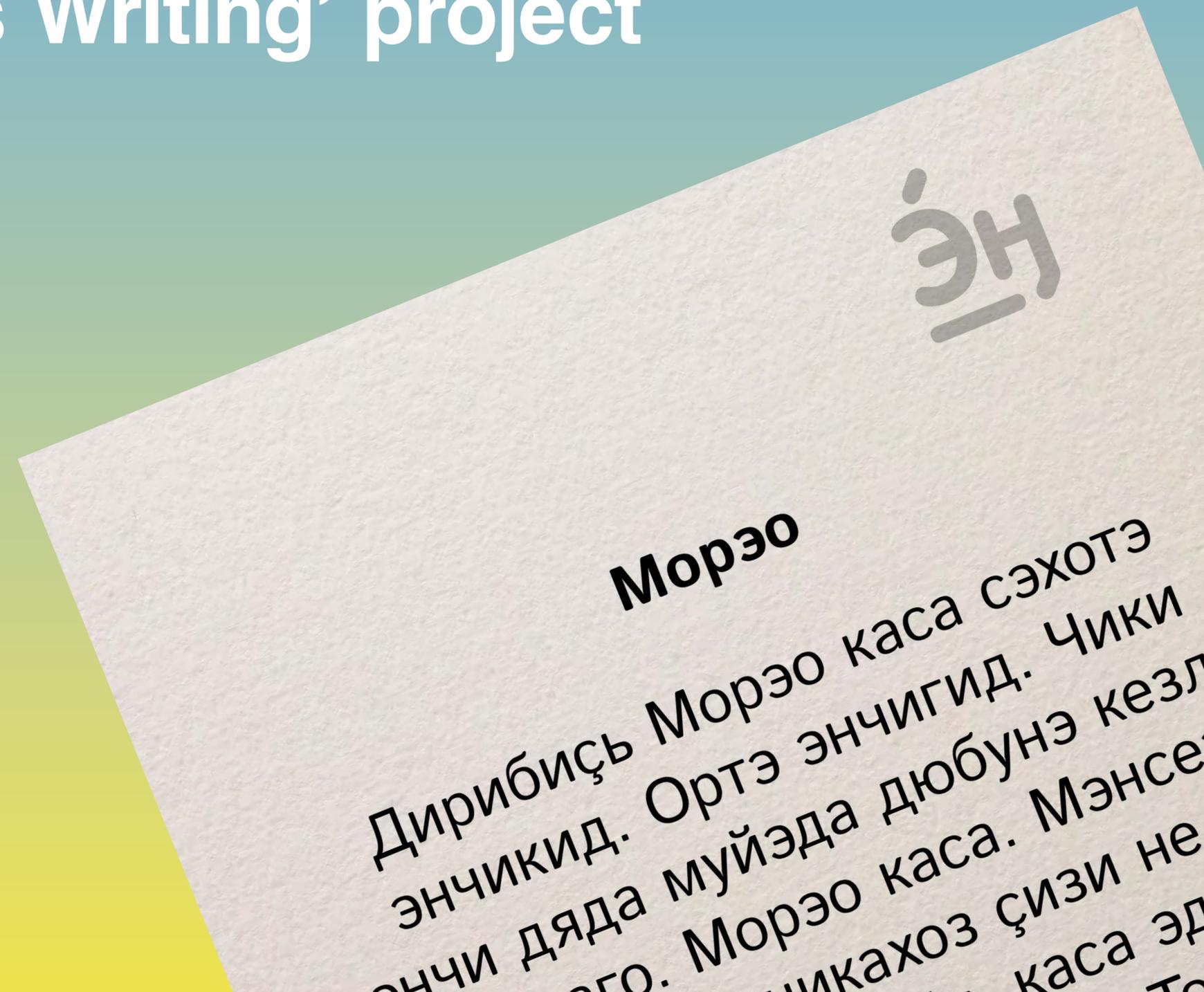


**But when a hunter's arrow hit a reindeer,  
the earth split asunder. And so the people  
understood the importance of being united  
and preserving their culture inherited from  
generations past**

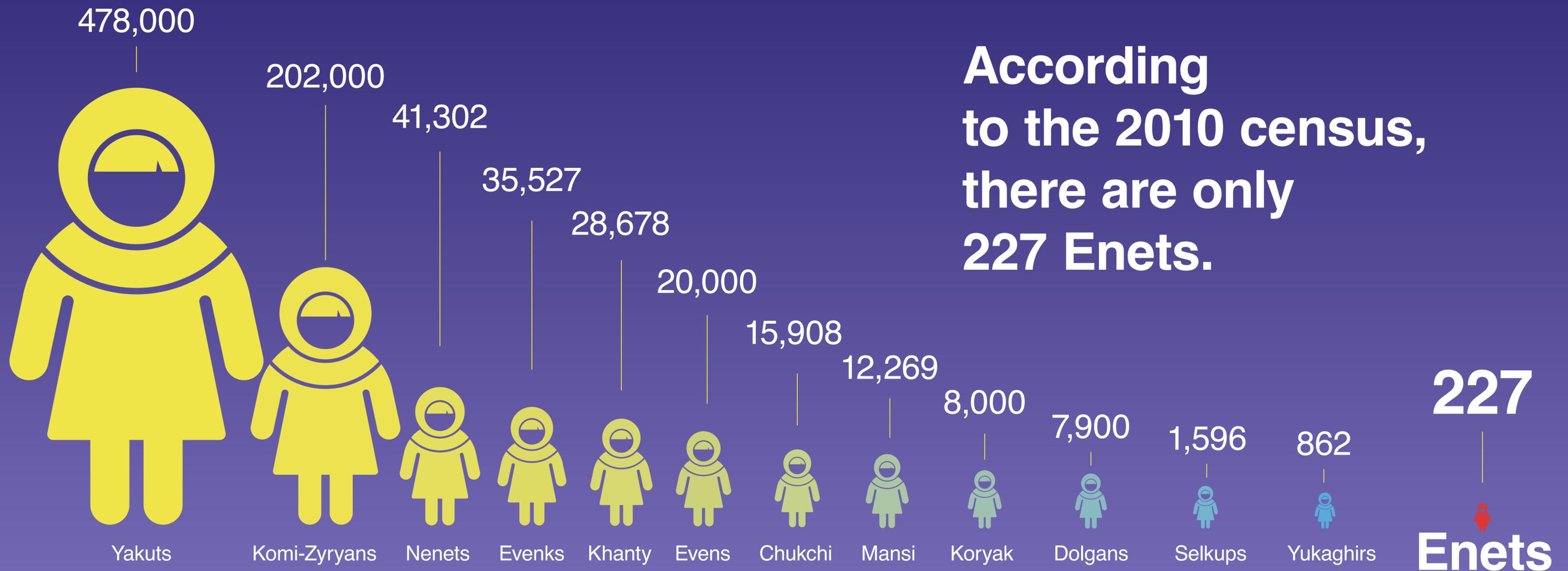


# This tale was put on paper owing to the 'Enets Writing' project

**The project's key goal  
is to design and give  
a formal recognition  
to the Enets writing**



# The Enets are the least numerous indigenous people of Russia



# The Enets live at the Taimyr Peninsula along the banks of the Yenisei River

**Less than 40 to 60  
of them speak  
the Enets language**



**The project was designed by a group of researchers led by Dr. Natalia Koptseva who are part of the Siberian Federal University, City of Krasnoyarsk**



**Natalia Koptseva**

Doctor of Philosophy



## Project results:

- An adequate alphabet was designed for the Enets language
- The way of transcribing sounds and words was tailored so as to be easy-to-use by native speakers
- Identified the most commonly used spellings of words and phrases
- The team has compiled a dictionary of the Enets language. It is currently used to teach the Enets children according to kohanga reo, or 'the language nest', method

Based on these outputs, we are now ready  
to apply for granting a formal status to a  
standardized version of the Enets language

А а Б б В в Г г Д д Е е Ё ё ε Ж ж З з И и Й й К к  
Л л М м Н н Њ њ О о П п Р р С с Џ џ Т т У у Ф ф  
Х х Ц ц Ч ч Ш ш Щ щ ъ ы ы ь Э э Ю ю Я я ' ”





**The 'Enets Writing' initiative was launched with the support of the Expert Center for Arctic Development (PORA)**

**PORA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to contribute to improving the quality of life in the Russian Arctic**



**The project relied on financial support from Norilsk Nickel, the Russia's leading metals and mining company and the world's largest high-grade nickel and palladium producer**

**With the creation of the writing, the unique  
Enets culture will be preserved  
for future generations**

**The last people in the Russian Arctic whose language  
had no written form now has an authentic writing**



Expert Center  
for Arctic Development

**PORA**

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Contact information**

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