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The Development of Word-Forming Affixes in The Altaic Languages

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Abstract: This article analyzes word-forming affixes in the Altaic languages. It compares noun-forming suffixes in Turkic languages with those found in Mongolic, Tungusic-Manchu, and Korean, tracing their origins. The study also reconstructs the proto-Altaic roots of these affixes.

Keywords: Altaic languages, household lexicon, noun, affix, suffix.

Introduction: Supporters of the Altaic language theory mainly base their arguments on the typological similarities in the structure of Altaic languages, as well as on the similarity of numerous elements in grammar and vocabulary. They identify the following features as key typological similarities among these languages:

1. In Phonology:
 - a) Vowel harmony;
 - b) General rules of consonant assimilation;
 - c) Stability of voiced consonants in the word root;
 - d) Words typically beginning with a single consonant (although modern Korean allows initial consonant clusters – Sh.U.);
 - e) Existence of differential lexical-meaning based harmonic parallelisms;
 - f) Primary stress in word combinations falling on the modifier.
2. In Morphology:
 - a) Dominance of agglutinative affixation for word formation and inflection;
 - b) Use of postpositions instead of prepositions;
 - c) Absence of articles;
 - d) Absence of grammatical gender;
 - e) Presence of possessive constructions;

- f) Use of ablative-case constructions to form comparatives;
- g) Use of genitive constructions in place of verbs like "to have";
- h) Inflection via possessive suffixes;
- i) Same affixes used for both singular and plural nouns;
- j) Abundance of verbal affixes;
- k) Presence of agglutinative interrogative particles;
- l) Use of singular forms to express plural concepts;
- m) Genetic relation between personal and demonstrative pronouns;
- n) Diversity of functions for the nominative case.

3. In Syntax:

- a) Modifiers and complements precede the elements they modify in phrases and sentences;
- b) Formation of questions via interrogative particles;
- c) Use of infinitive, participial, and adverbial constructions instead of subordinate clauses;
- d) Logical separation of the object formed in the accusative case;
- e) Use of material-denoting nouns as modifiers without morphological markers;
- f) Invariant use of numerals and adjectives in attributive position [1: 30–31].

Among the methods of word formation in Altaic languages, the morphological method (affixation) is the most productive. In this method, suffixes forming nouns from nouns and verbs are actively employed. Below, we analyze suffixes that derive nouns from other nouns.

The suffix -turuk / -duruk in Turkic // -durga in Mongolic // -turga in Tungusic-Manchu // -tori in Korean

In the domestic lexicon of Turkic languages, the suffix -turuk / -duruk (also -türük / -dürük, -tirik / -dirik, -tirik / -dirik, -derek) is one of the most widespread word-forming affixes. This suffix often attaches to somatic roots and produces the following semantic groups:

1. Names of clothing and accessories: bojunturuq // mojunturuq "collar, scarf" < bojun // mojun "neck"; saqalturuq "strap tied under the chin to prevent a hat from falling off" < saqal "beard"; eğındirik "cape" < eğin "shoulder"; gözündürük "face cover" < ko'z "eye"; közildirik "glasses" < ko'z "eye"; tabandirik "women's wooden footwear used in rain" < taban "heel of the foot".
2. Names of horse gear and its parts: ömüldürük "chest strap of the saddle" < öm "collarbone"; kömüldürük "padding placed under the saddle" < köm

"felt"; burunduruk "noseband for a biting horse" < burun "nose"; kekildirik "forehead strap of the bridle" < kekil "forelock"; töbeldirik "forehead strap of the bridle" < töbe "top of the head"; közüldürük "blinder to cover frightened horse's eyes" < ko'z "eye"; tüşelderek "chest pad" < tüş "chest".

3. Names of household items: kaşıldirik "rack for hanging spoons on the wall" < kaşik "spoon"; tábälderek "loom pedal" < táb- "to step, to tread".

The suffix -lik / -liq / -lig / -liğ in Turkic languages // -ruk in Tungusic-Manchu languages

The Turkic suffix -lik // -liq // -lig // -liğ is one of the most productive and polysemous word-forming affixes. Various linguistic studies have explored its structure and use [5: 79]. This suffix actively forms names of clothing items by attaching to somatic roots: arxalig, arkalik "a type of upper garment" < arka "back"; başlik "headgear" < baş "head"; tepelik "decorative head covering" < tepe "top of the head"; eliklik "glove" < elik "hand".

When added to words denoting liquids or substances, it forms clothing terms: jäglik "scarf, handkerchief" < jäg "fat"; jamurluk "raincoat" < jamur "rain". It is also used to denote containers: tuzliq "salt container" < tuz "salt"; In Turkish: çaydanlık "teapot" < çay "tea" (from Chinese) + -dan (container suffix from Persian-Tajik) + -lik.

G.I. Ramstedt compared the Turkic suffix -lik // -liq // -lig // -liğ to the Tungusic-Manchu -ruk: turukaruk "salt container" < turuka "salt" (cf. tuzliq); seleruk "box or bag for storing old iron tools" < sele "iron"; kalaruk "bag for cauldron" < kala "cauldron" [6: 203].

The -lak // -lek suffix in Turkic is considered a phonetic variant of -lik // -liq // -lig // -liğ. This variant is also productive in forming clothing terms: köñlak "shirt" < köñ "sheepskin"; kəpeləx "fabric for shirts" < kəpe "coarse wool fabric".

Another phonetic variant is -nak // -nek // -nik // -nik, found especially in names of clothing and ornaments: kasnak "crown worn under women's scarves" < kas "circle"; kebenek "felt coat for shepherds" < kebe "felt, coarse fabric" < kebe "sheep's wool" < kebe "sheep"; In Gagauz: e:linnik "bride's dress" < e:lin "bride".

The suffix -(V)k / -(V)q / -(V)g in Turkic languages // -(V)g / -(V)ğ / -ga (-qa) in Mongolic // -k, -ki in Tungusic-Manchu // -ki in Korean

This affix derives nouns from nouns, adjectives, and onomatopoeic roots. It appears in names of household items: köñek "leather container" < köñ "leather" < "sheepskin" < "sheep".

It actively forms names of garments and their parts: bałak "trouser leg" < bał "foot, ankle"; jeläk "short jacket

or vest" < jel "shoulder"; sarik "traditional leather footwear" < sari "leather"; sačak "tassel" or "scarf with tassels" < sač "hair".

In Turkic, the suffixes -(V)k / -(V)q / -(V)g are paralleled by the archaic Tungusic-Manchu nominalizing suffix -(V)k: helik "metal case or pouch" < hel "metal, iron"; hiltek // hiltik "flint pouch or tinderbag" < hilte "flint".

The modern Tungusic-Manchu -ki suffix, though less productive, is considered homologous with the Korean -ki suffix. For instance: Tungusic-Manchu: eneki "sheath, case" < ene; udeki "wooden board for leather cutting" < ude; uneki "women's belt" < une.

Korean: bosiki "ceramic jar for kimchi and similar pickles" < bos < bot "mud"; koneki "long, wide-mouthed ceramic pot made of baked clay" < kone // kune "pit, hole".

The affixes mentioned above not only serve to form the names of objects in the Altaic languages, but also convey the meaning of smallness. For example, in Turkic languages: jüzük < jürük "ring" < jür "joint"; in Mongolic: uğurağ "egg yolk" < uğur; domağ "legend" < dom "magic, sorcery" (see: KW 91; Choi 103); in Korean: photäki "baby blanket" < photä "cover"; čabägi "scrap, lump" < čabä.

In Turkic languages, the affix -ga/-ğa/-ka/-ke, in Tungusic-Manchu languages -ka/-ke/-ğa/-ge, and in Korean -kä function as diminutive suffixes. They are used within nouns to denote the sense of smallness. For instance, in Turkic languages: siričğa "glass, crystal, bead" < sir "secret" + -(i)č + -ğa; qovğa "bucket" < qov < kob < köbü "hollow, hole" + -ğa; kemeke "stove" < keme // kome // küme "pit, hollow" + -ke. The affix -ka/-ke in Turkic languages corresponds to similar forms in Tungusic-Manchu and Korean languages: in Tungusic-Manchu tedeke "mat" < tede "mat leather"; kebeke "women's bag" < kebe; in Korean otukä "mulberry fruit" < oti "mulberry".

In Turkic languages: -ken/-qan; in Mongolic: -ken/-xan; and in Tungusic-Manchu: -kän/-ken/-xan

The affix -ken/-qan is rarely used within Turkic nouns: čepken "outerwear" < čep; qasqan "surrounding, collar" < qas. In contrast, it is a highly productive and polysemantic affix in Mongolic and Tungusic-Manchu. For example, in Mongolic: süiken "earring" < süi; ulxan "bowl" < ul; in Tungusic-Manchu: se^hxan "earring hook" < se^h(n) "ear"; komtaxan "lid, box" < komta; kurken "container for berries" < kur. In Mongolic, the -xan suffix actively forms diminutive or affectionate nouns: cahaxan "snowflake" < cahan "snow"; when added to numerals, it conveys limitation: nigexen "only one", xoxarxan "just two"; it also denotes feminine gender: nojon "prince" → nojonxon "princess", xū

"boy" → xūxen "girl" [7: 46]. In this context, the Uzbek suffix -xon, used in women's names with affectionate or teasing connotations, corresponds to it: Lolaxon, Ra'noxon.

In Turkic languages: -ča; in Mongolic: -čai as diminutive suffixes. The -ča suffix is one of the productive word-forming affixes in Turkic languages. Its historical development has been discussed in numerous works related to Altaic and Turkic studies [6: 192]. The -ča suffix, used in names of household items, indicates a diminutive meaning: kōpača < kōrpe; tugunča < tugun; in Uzbek dialects: qomča "small mattress, pad" < qom "camel's saddle". It also signifies smaller types of clothing: kojlakča, tonča, jeŋča. In the names of ornaments, it denotes smallness: sirča "glass, crystal, bead" < sir. In Chuvash, Tatar, Bashkir, and Nogai languages, a phonetic variant -sa/-se of the -ča suffix is observed: in Chuvash alsa "sleeve" < al "hand"; majsä "ornament" < mäj "neck"; in Tatar mujänsä "bead" < mujän "neck"; tamaksa "bead" < tamak "throat". G.I. Ramstedt compared the Turkic -ča suffix with the Mongolic -čai suffix: qaragačai "swallow (bird)" < qaraga [6: 138].

In Turkic languages: -čak/-čaq, -čik/-čiq/-čuk; in Mongolic: -čag/-čag, -čik; in Korean: -ččak < -čak as diminutive suffixes

These suffixes are used to convey endearment or smallness. In Turkic languages: qapirčaq "box, coffin, basket" < qabir // qawuz "tree bark"; qapčiq "pouch, small bag" < qap "bag"; boččuk "small jar" < boč < boğ < bod < bot "clay"; qazančuk "small pot" < qazan "pot"; in Mongolic: qayurčag, qajirčag "small box" < qayur // qajir "box"; in Korean: koeččak "box" < koe.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the household vocabulary of the Altaic languages can be morphologically divided into basic and derived words. Basic words in Altaic languages are generally composed of one or two syllables. Closed syllables are more frequent in Turkic and Korean, while open syllables are more prevalent in Mongolic, Tungusic-Manchu, and Japanese languages. In Korean, native words with CVV and CSV structures are also observed. In the household lexicon of Altaic languages, both morphological and syntactic methods of word formation are widely used. In the Proto-Altaic period, syntactic methods were more active. Compound nouns of the noun + noun type were common in Proto-Turkic and Proto-Korean. In later periods, as some words lost their independence and began to function as affixes, morphological word formation became increasingly dominant.

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