

Explication of Mongolian parallels in relevant Yakut concepts

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Abstract—The Yakut language belongs to the Uyghur group of Turkic languages. It has a special place among the Turkic languages due to its archaic nature and unique characteristics of vocabulary and grammar. It is distinct from related Turkic languages by abundance of Mongolian parallels also.

Yakut-Mongolian relations are diachronically divided into earliest Yakut-Mongolian and later Yakut-Middle-Mongolian contacts (not before 12th-13th centuries and not later than 15th or even 16th century). Phonetically, most Mongolian parallels in Yakut retain features of the medieval Mongolian language. This body of Yakut vocabulary is generally believed to be Mongolian loanwords. The issue of the origin of borrowing is still open as most Mongolian loanwords in Yakut are neutral towards modern Mongolian languages. Their parallels are found and shared by all Mongolian languages. However, some scholars note a number of Yakut-Buryat parallels.

The purpose of the study is to find relevant concepts in dialect vocabulary of the Yakut language with Mongolian parallels. The analysis of explication of parallels from Mongolic languages in relevant Yakut concepts has not been studied before. The explanatory principle finds its specific meaning when comparing dialects of the modern Yakut language with parallels in Mongolic languages since interrelation of Turkic and Mongolic studies allows finding various explanations and providing each of them rational content. In the present paper, we have restricted ourselves to nouns functioning in Yakut dialect vocabulary. First of all, these are proper dialect words not present in the literary Yakut language. Preliminary observations show that it is dialect vocabulary that incorporates interesting original Mongolian parallels. Yakut dialect nouns with Mongolian parallels were classified according to semantic features into three groups: 1) Nature; 2) Living things; 3) Abstract notions. Each lexeme is provided by parallels from written Mongolian and modern Mongolian languages. In terms of lexico-semantic characteristics of Mongolian parallels, nouns in Yakut dialect vocabulary fall into three large terminological groups: names of various local landforms, names of instruments and terms of fishing. A great number of names of landforms and instruments are found in the North-Eastern groups of dialects, with the Kolyma patois standing out in bout categories. Terms for fishing are most abundant in the Vilui group of patois. The least number of Mongolian parallels is observed in the Central group of dialects; the reason is that the Yakut literary language is based on the Central dialect zone.

Keywords—*Yakut language, Mongolian Parallels, Concept, Yakut dialect vocabulary, Yakut-Mongolian relations*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Yakut language belongs to the Uyghur group of Turkic languages. It has a special place among the Turkic languages due to its archaic nature and unique characteristics of vocabulary and grammar. It is distinct from related Turkic languages by abundance of Mongolian parallels also. At present, problems of Yakut-Mongolian contacts are extensively studied (Shamaeva A.E., Prokopieva S.M., Borisov Y.P., Gogolev A.I., Semenova E.V., Nelunov A.G., Malysheva N.V., Bozhedonova A., Starostina Y., Pestereva K., Samsonova M., Ikonnikova A., Gadal S., Jochelson W. [1-11]).

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The purpose of the study is to reveal relevant concepts in dialect vocabulary of the Yakut language reflecting Mongolian parallels.

In the context of intensive development of cognitive linguistics, linguists are deeply involved in elaboration of concepts in the modern Yakut language (Prokopieva S.M., Monastyrev V.D., Dmitrieva E.N., Kunzendorf M.H., Afanasyeva E. N., Savvinova G., Nikolaeva T.N., Prokopeva A.K., Gotovtseva L.M., Nikolaeva A.M., Ivanova R.P. [4, 5, 12-15]).

The study is based on general research principles: analysis, synthesis, induction, analogy, and comparison, the principle of system and comparative analysis.

In the present paper, we have restricted ourselves to nouns functioning in Yakut dialect vocabulary. Preliminary observations show that it is dialect vocabulary that incorporates interesting original Mongolian parallels. For example, northern Yakut call migratory birds «*кытат кэтөрө*», where *Кытат* is a Mongolian word meaning 'China'. Many migratory birds actually winter in China. According to historical data, Yakut ancestors (probably, Kurykans) had regular relations with China. This expression is supported by historical facts.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mongolian parallel lexical units in Yakut are classified according to semantic features.

A. Nature

Terms related to mountainous landform. *Нарыа* (Abiy, Sakkyryr) 'gentle mountain slope' [16], compare Written Mongolian *нириуун* 'back, ridge' [17], Buryat *нюрган* 'back, backbone; ridge, upper part of something; surface extending above a surface' [18], Buryat (Nizhne-Udinsk) *нюргун* 'back', Mongolian *нуруу(н)* 'back, backbone; spine, dorsal column; geographic term, ridge' [19], Kalmyk *нурһн* 'back, backbone; ridge; upper part of something; surface, elevation' [20].

Terms describing landscape features: *Боруо, барыа* (Abiy, Zhigansk, Kobyai, Nam, Khangalass) 'elevation, upland seen from far away' [21], compare: Mongolian *бори* 'slope, descent; downward slope of a mountain' [22]. Yakut *боруо, барыа* is semantically close to Buryat *бори* 'upland, elevation, foot of a mountain' [18] which does not rule out borrowing through Buryat. This lexeme with its derivatives is a known toponym in many districts of Yakutia [22].

Hydrographic terms: *Күндэ, күннэ* (Kolymskiy) 'interconnected deep lakes', compare Written Mongolian *гүн* 'depth' [23], Mongolian, Buryat *гун* 'depth, deep' [24], Kalmyk *гунн* 'depth, deep' [20].

Atmospheric and natural phenomena: *Сайын* 'spring snow', Buryat (Alarskiy) *хайб* 'spring water (only melt water)' [25].

Names of metals, minerals, and substances. *Чарай* 'slime, viscous slime, sticky wet substance' [26], compare Written Mongolian *цэр* [23] 'slime, phlegm'.

Soil, vegetation: *Дьондол* (Zhignask) 'willow, white willow' [16]. From Yakut *жондой-* 'be tall and lean, lanky, stretch up' < Mongolian; Buryat *jonдой-*, *jontoi-* 'protrude; jut out', *jondoiḡšo narһаḡ* 'single (lit. jutting out) pine', Khalkha *jonдой-* 'protrude, stick out' [27], Written Mongolian *жондойиқи*, Mongolian *ёндойх* 'stick out; become lanky' [23].

Seasons: *Сойуо ыйа* (Olekminsk) 'April' [16], compare Buryat *сой* 'spring melting of snow' [24].

B. Living things

Human and their life activity:

Human. *Адаай* (Verkhoyansk) 'fool, chatterer whose words one cannot rely on' [16], compare Written Mongolian *ада* 'evil spirit, extravagant', *адату* 'raging, crazy' [16], Written Mongolian *ада*, Mongolian *ад* 'tempter, evil spirit (he flies, threatening people, spreading illness and evoking wildness; devilish, satanic; extravagant, mad; wild, uncontrollable)' [23], Buryat *ада* 'house spirit, demon, evil spirit, devilry' [18], Kalmyk *ад* 'madness, insanity' [20].

Illnesses: *Албан* (Vilui, Nyurba, Verkhne-Vilui, Zhigansk), *албас* (Ust-Aldan), *албах* (Pek.) 'epidemic, epidemic disease' [16], compare Buryat (West) *албан* 'smallpox' [18], *албаз* 'epidemic, infection'; compare Buryat (West) *alban* 'smallpox' [27].

Relations and properties: *Абай* (Pek.) 'used by the lady of the house as a way of addressing her husband or a strange respectful man', compare Written Mongolian *аба5ай* 'respectful way of addressing an older person' [16], Written Mongolian *абуγай* [23], Mongolian *авгай* 'a married woman; an elderly woman' [19], *ахай* 'a respectful way of addressing a married woman' [19], Buryat *ахай* 'elder brother; brother-in-law, husband's elder brother; respectful way of addressing elder brother; obsolete, master' [18], Kalmyk *ахур* 'respectful way of addressing elders: honored, respected' [20].

Instruments, various accessories: *Кэдэрэ* 'wooden scraper to dress fell' [26], compare Written Mongolian *кедере(н)* [28], Kalmyk *кедереḡн* 'instrument for dressing fell' [20].

Tableware: *Бэлкэй* (Suntar) 'a large wicker' [16], *бэлкэй* (Pek.) 'the smallest goblet for kumis' [16], compare Khalkha Mongolian *belgi-* 'be thicker', Ordos *belge* 'overflow' [27], Mongolian *бэлхийх* 'become stout, put on weight; have a large belly' [19], Buryat *бэлхэгэр* 'ball-shaped' [18].

Haymaking: *Абарџана* (Suntar) 'land not suitable for haymaking' [26], compare Written Mongolian *сабар*, Mongolian *сабар* 'flat rake used for drawing together bricks of dry dung; pitchfork for hay' Written Mongolian *sabardaqu*, Mongolian *савардах* 'draw together with a rake, rake' [23].

Stock breeding: *Амыра* (Verkhne-Kolyma) 'infertile dry' compare Written Mongolian *атурақи* 'take a rest (after exhaustion)' [1], Middle Mongolian *атиқи* 'rest' [29], Mongolian *амь(амин)* 'life, breath' [19], Buryat *амарха* 'rest, calm down' [18], Kalmyk *амрх* 'rest' [20].

Hunting vocabulary: *Маарда* (Pek.) 'curved heavily, of a crossbow' [16], compare Mongolian *ju:-tard* 'a generous man' [29], Buryat *мардаан:* *мардаан хутага* (West) 'a large blunt knife' [18], Kalmyk *мээрэ* (*мээрэг*) 'blunt, dulled'; *мээрэ сүг* 'blunt axe' [20]. Turkic languages tend to place stress on the first syllable in borrowed words.

Fishing terms: *Лааха* (Vilui) 'broach'; (Ust-Yansk) 'sculpin' [16]; *лахаа* (Bulun, Lensk) 'broach' [16]; *лахас* (Oymyakon) 'a type of fish' [16]; *лахачы*

‘sculpin’ [16]. Compare Written Mongolian *laqa* ‘sheatfish’ [28], Mongolian *лах* ‘sheatfish’ [19].

Dwelling and its interior: *Модьоџо* (Verkhoyansk, Megino-Kangalassy, Nyurba, Taatta, Ust-Aldan) (Pek.), *модџо* (Gorniy) ‘hearth; the lower part of the fireplace – a frame filled with clay’ *модьоох* ‘hearth’ [26], compare Buryat *можо* ‘jamb’, *онџоохын можо* ‘side window jamb’; *үүдэнэй можо* ‘side door jamb’, *ороной можо* ‘paneled side of the bed’ [18]. This lexeme is not present in MRD, KRD.

Clothes and its details, decoration: *Будуул* (Abiy) ‘fur shoes without the top worn above reindeer boots’, compare Written Mongolian *шутул* ‘shoes’ [16], Written Mongolian *үтүл* [23], Mongolian *шутал* ‘shoes’ [19], Buryat *шутал* ‘shoes’ [18].

Food, foodstuff: *Амаһа* (Anabar, Olenek), *амаһаа* (Dolgan) ‘roast made of chopped meat, fat, and marrow’, compare Written Mongolian *амусу* ‘porridge’ [16], Mongolian *амас* ‘porridge’ [19], Buryat *амһан* ‘obsolete, a meal made of milk and cereals (earlier of seeds and roots)’ [18].

Parts of human body and animals: *Долуур* (Olenek) ‘shoulder-blade of human and animals’, compare Written Mongolian *далу* ‘humeral bone’ [16], compare Mongolian *далу* ‘shoulder-blade’ [29], Buryat *дала* ‘shoulder-blade’ [18], Mongolian *дал* ‘shoulder-blade’ [19], Kalmyk *дал* ‘shoulder-blade’ [20].

Арылба (Verkhoyansk) ‘fang of a stallion and large predators’ [16], Written Mongolian *арыга* ‘molar’ [28], Written Mongolian *арыгалагу* [23], compare Mongolian *ари’а сидүн* ‘canine tooth’ [29], Mongolian *араа(н)* ‘molar’ [19], *араалах* ‘cut, erupt (of molars)’ [23], Buryat *араан* ‘molar; feng’ [18], Kalmyk *аран* ‘molar; feng’ [20].

Animals: *Бағыһах* (euphemism, Viluisk) ‘bear’ [16], probably from Mongolian, compare Written Mongolian *багасиқ* [23], Mongolian *багасиғ* ‘small, young’ [19], Buryat *багасиһах* ‘smaller, not quite enough’, *багасиһах галта уула* ‘knoll’ [18], Kalmyk *баһиһах* ‘consider small (not enough)’ [22], Buryat *багасиһағ* ‘not big enough’ [18].

Birds: *Ангыр* (Pek.) ‘owl’, compare Written Mongolian *ангыр* ‘scoter’ [16], Mongolian *ангир* ‘scoter’ [19], Buryat *zoological term, ангир* ‘scoter; pochard-scoter’ [18], Kalmyk *әңәр* ‘scoter’ [20].

Insects: *Соллонг* (Kolyma, Indigirka, Ust-Yansk) ‘worm, helminth’, compare Mongolian *зовлон* ‘worm’ [24].

C. Abstract notions

Дьаллык (Verkhoyansk) ‘predicted fate’ [16], Written Mongolian *жарлиқ* [23], Mongolian *жарлиғ* ‘directive, order’ [19], Buryat *жарлиғ* ‘command, behest; decree, order’ [18], Kalmyk *жарлх* ‘declare, announce; notify, appoint’ [5].

III. CONCLUSIONS

In terms of lexico-semantic characteristics of Mongolian parallels, nouns in Yakut dialect vocabulary

fall into three large terminological groups: names of various local landforms, names of instruments and terms of fishing.

A great number of names of landforms and instruments are found in the North-Eastern groups of dialects, with the Kolyma patois standing out in bout categories.

Terms for fishing are most abundant in the Vilui group of patois.

The least number of Mongolian parallels is observed in the Central group of dialects; the reason is that the Yakut literary language is based on the Central dialect zone.

The analyzed material is of great interest because Yakut and Mongolian are both genetically and typologically close. Yet, they also have national specific characteristics in the conceptual picture of the world.

Further research into Mongolian parallels in dialect nouns of the Yakut language is of interest as language is considered a cultural code of a nation, not just an instrument for communication and cognition. It will allow approaching the laws of origin of language, mind and culture from a new perspective as well as new aspects of interaction between cognitive linguistics and culturology, linguoculturology, philosophy and psychology.

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