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# Mongolic Elements in Chagatay

Abstract

PhD Dissertation

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The rise of the Mongolian Empire in the 13th century represents a turning point for the history of the Mongolian linguistic elements in the Turkic languages, as a huge lexical stock penetrates in the Middle Turkic languages and dialects at this time. Different studies deal with the Mongolian influence on Middle Kipchak (the Cuman language), Osmanli and the modern Turkic languages. The number and the importance of the Mongolic elements in Chagatay is also significant, nonetheless only minor researches are published in this field.<sup>1</sup> Although CLAUSON gives a list of Mongolian words in his edition of Sanglax and we can find Chagatay and other Turkic data in the great work of DOERFER<sup>2</sup> and ŠČERBAK<sup>3</sup>, a complex study of the topic was still missing.

In my research I aimed to gather a possibly complete lexicon of words of Mongolic origin in Chagatay. Working on both the Chagatay dictionaries, glossaries and the publication of texts I collected about 350 words. My goal was to draw a series of conclusions on the history of the Turkic and the Mongolic languages, to learn more about Middle Mongolian as a source language and to describe the phenomena of Turkic – Mongolic language contacts.

The structure of the dissertation is as follows. Chapter One of the dissertation deals with historical and methodological questions: the historical background of the Turkic – Mongolic language contacts, the summary of previous studies, the enumeration of the used material and the problems of transcription.

The main part of the dissertation is Chapter Two. Section 2.1. gives an overview of language contact theories in general and I define my work within this framework as a case of a diachronic study. Section 2.2. deals with the

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<sup>1</sup> SERTKAYA, O. F. 1987. (1992) Mongolian Words and Forms in Chagatay Turkish (Eastern Turki) and Turkey Turkish (Western Turki): *TDAY-B* (1987.) 265-280.

<sup>2</sup> *Die türkischen und mongolischen Elemente im Neupersischen*. I-IV. Wiesbaden. 1963-1975.

<sup>3</sup> *Rannie tjurksko-mongol'skie jazykovye svjazi. VIII-XIV vv.* Sankt-Peterburg. 1997.

criteria of borrowings and in 2.3. I establish the structure of each entry. The Chagatay data are followed by the phonological reconstruction of the copied Middle Mongolic word with its morphological structure. As to the source language I studied the Middle Mongolian material but also included the modern Mongolic and Turkic dictionaries into the research. I thoroughly examined if a given word appeared in the Turkic languages before the Mongolian period (13<sup>th</sup> century) or only in Chagatay (15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) and how these words spread in the Modern Turkic languages.

Section 2.4. contains the etymological studies of the words of Mongolic origin with my remarks on their history in Turkic languages.

Chapter Three contains the results of the research. In 3.1 the phonological assimilation of the Mongolic words is dealt. 3.2. describes the different aspects of semantics in the copying process. 3.3. examines the borrowing of verbs and their morphological adaptation and also the borrowed morphemes together with the mixed copies and paired words. Section 3.4. contains conclusions on Middle Mongolic linguistic conditions: observations on Middle Mongolic disyllables, diphthongs, *-ng* and *-n* in auslaut position, types of regressive assimilation, the shift of syllable *si-* > *ši-*, the disappearing of word initial *h-* etc. 3.5. gives the semantic groups of words of Mongolic origin. In the Appendix one will find the 350 words analyzed etymologically, the List of Mongolic word formation suffixes with remarks on their functions, the Bibliography and Abbreviations.

My study produced an important result for Mongolian studies: it widened our knowledge on Middle Mongolian lexicology as well as on morphology and phonetics. I managed to present several new etymologies, to strengthen or reshape old ones. Furthermore it gives additional information on different types of language contacts respectively.