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Comparative Analysis of the Yakut-Mongolian Parallels (the Case of the Horse Coat Color)

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to identify the phonostructural and lexical-semantic features of the Yakut-Mongolian lexical parallels, denoting the names of the horse coat color. It is known that the horse is a sacred animal in the Yakut and Mongolian culture and therefore the terminology of horse breeding is very developed and rich in both languages. In the furtherance of this goal, we used several methods of research; the main ones are component and distributive analyses. We used the component analysis to reveal the lexical-semantic feature of the parallels. The lexemes were divided into three groups: a) the stability of the lexical meaning of the word; b) a partial coincidence of the lexical meaning of the word; c) a noticeable change in the lexical meaning of the word. With the help of distributive analysis, we showed the phonostructural feature of the adjectives' names, denoting the name of the horse coat colors, and also revealed ethnocultural differences and similarities. As a result of the study, 13 Yakut-Mongolian parallels were found. As is known, there are about 200 kinds of horse coat colors, and to distinguish all of them, different nations use their complex adjectives. Therefore, the Yakut-Mongolian parallels are divided into 2 categories: one-component (9 items) and two-component (4 items). When analyzing the structural type of one-component lexical parallels, it was revealed that 4 out of 9 parallels were subjected to a structural change. Of the 5 parallels with the absolute coincidence of the structural types there are three Yakut stems: "sālïr ", "būlur", "küräŋ ", in all probability, they are late borrowings from the Mongolian language. Component analysis has shown that preservation of the stability of lexical meanings is noted in 31% (4) parallels, a slight lexical change occurred in 39% (5) parallels, notable lexical changes - in 31% (4) parallels.

Keywords: Horse coat color, Comparative study, Lexical and semantic features, Lexical parallels, Stable lexical meanings, One-component stems, Two-component stems.

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Introduction

The issue of origin and historical development of the Yakut language to date remains one of the important and insufficiently studied aspects of the research requiring systematic study. It involves additional language material from other related and unrelated languages as to comparative and typological aspects of diachronic and synchronic sections.

The hypothesis of the non-Türkic origin of the Yakut language was first put forward by V.V. Radlov, dividing the historical development of the Yakut language into three stages, where the Yakut language is regarded as the dialect of the Mongolian language (Radlov, 1908). The proposed idea of V.V. Radlov did not find supporters. However, in the works of researchers of the Turkic and Mongolian languages – V.I. Rassadin (1980), E.I. Ubryatova (2011), S. Kaluzhinsky (1961), A.N. Antonov (1971), P.A. Sleptsov (2008), G. Levin (2013), S.D. Eginova (2014), A.E. Shamaeva (2012) marked a certain influence of the Mongolian language on the historical development of the Yakut language.

A.I. Gogolev notes the long Yakut-Buryat (Mongolian) contacts in the Cisbaikalia region from the middle of the 1st millennium AD (1993). He emphasizes that after this contact, in addition to the mongolisms borrowed in the Yakut language, the basic part of the Turkisms in the Buryat language was borrowed from the great Yakut language.

According to V.I. Rassadin, in the period from XIII to XIV (even before the XVI) centuries there was a powerful influence of some unidentified East Mongolian language on the Yakut language (1977). In all likelihood, this basic contact occurred at the Upper (in the Kurykan times) and in the Middle Lena, with the Mongol-speaking tribes that had already mastered the region, with whom the Yakuts could coexist in the conditions of bilingualism (Yakutia (Sakha), 2013).

Yakut historians are trying to resolve the issue of the place and time of the Yakut-Mongolian contacts, which influenced a strong change in the sound structure of the Yakut language: restored sounds *d, dj, č, l, n; uvular q, ğ* are used with wide vowels, back-to-back k, g - with narrow vowels (Sleptsov, 2008). In addition, under the influence of Mongolian-speaking tribes in the ancient Yakut period (XI-XIII centuries), numerous verbs, figurative words with the whole system of living morphological forms entered into the vocabulary of the Yakut language. As a result of this process, it was found that in the active vocabulary of the Yakut language there are over 2500 Mongolian words, among which there are many figurative words, verbs, adjectives, including names denoting the horse coat color (Sleptsov, 2008). It is assumed that during this period the basic phonetic, morphological patterns, grammatical structure of the Yakut language was strengthened and had been preserved to this day.

Thus, the question of the relationship of the Mongolian language to the historical development and the origin of the Yakut language is still debatable. Recently, there is a clear need for revision, reassessment and improvement of genealogical, previously developed hypotheses on the consideration of this issue. In this connection, the study of the names of horse coat color in the Yakut and Mongolian languages is of special importance, since most of the Yakut cattle breeding and horse breeding vocabulary was borrowed from the Mongolian language. The horse in the national worldview of two nations has a special significance; it is determined not only as a means of transportation, but also as the main source of vital necessity.

Methods and materials

The following basic methods of research were used in the work: 1) component analysis, which involves identifying the semantic structure of a word by considering its lexical meaning in three groups: a) the stability of the lexical meaning of the word; b) a partial coincidence of the lexical meaning of the word; c) a noticeable change in the lexical meaning of the word; 2) distributive analysis, based on the study of the

environment of the concerned adjectives, which allows to reveal different meanings and shades of the meanings of the names of adjectives; showing the structural features of lexical parallels in the following three indicators: a) absolute coincidence (for example, [CVC] = [CVC]); b) partial coincidence (for example, [CVC] → [CV: C]); c) subjected to structural changes (for example, [CVC] → [VCC]). The work also includes a method of comparative analysis, which allows to reveal the general and specific in the present languages. The quantitative-statistical method of investigation is also used. It shows quantitative and percentage indices by the main results of the analyzes. The main criterion for selecting adjectives is the designation of the meaning of the horse coat color, taking into account its color type and coloring characters.

The actual material of the study was extracted by a continuous sampling method of adjectives denoting the horse coat color from the dictionary of the Yakut language by E.K. Pekarsky (Dictionary of the Yakut language I-III in 1959), "Dictionary of the Yakut language" (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013) (hereinafter - TSYAYA), which identified 164 of adjectives, compared to the Mongolian language given in the "Great Academic Mongolian-Russian Dictionary" (2001-2002) (hereinafter BAMRS).

Results

From 164 Yakut adjectives describing horse coat color 16 items represent the major coat color of Yakut horse: *qara* 'black', *kugas* 'red', *sur* 'dun', *siär* 'sorrel', *čuoǧur* 'flea-bitten', *älämäs* 'piebald', *kyreŋ* 'brown', *araǧas* 'light gray', *turaǧas* 'bay', *ähä qara* 'black-brown', *sālïr* 'light-bay', *qoŋor* 'skewbald', *köǧötčör* 'gray', *būlūr* 'flecked', *ala* 'marked', *ulān* 'light gray'.

13 bases of the identified adjectives names in Yakut have parallels in Mongolian language, including 69% (9) that belong to the main coat colors, 31% (4) – types of colors, 1% – marks of horse.

The Yakut and Mongolian lexical parallels are examined in two main categories:

1. One-component stems (9 items): 1) yak. *qara* 'black' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 3330) // mong. *qar* 'black' (BAMRS, IV 2001: 45); 2) yak. *ala* 'marked' (TSYAYA, I 2004: 384) // mong. *alag* 'piebald, marked, with spots; of different color' (BAMRS, I 2001: 69); 3) yak. *būlur* (burul) 'gray, flecked ' (TSYAYA, II 2005: 598) // mong. *būral* 'flecked' (BAMRSS, I 2001: 295); 4) yak. *ulān* 'light gray' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 2994) // mong. *ulān* 'red, scarlet, rosy' (BAMRS, III 2001: 315); 5) yak. *sālïr* ' light-bay' (TSYAYA, VIII 2011: 75) // mong. *sāral* 'gray, ashen, dirty (about color); dun' (BAMRS, III 2001: 61); 6) yak. *čuoǧur* 'flea-bitten' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 3688) // mong. *tsōqor* 'marked, spotty pock-marked; freckled; flea-bitten' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 167); 7) yak. *küräŋ* 'brown' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 1327) // mong. *qüräŋ* 'brown; chestnut (about coat color)' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 192); 8) yak. *qoŋor* 'skewbald' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 3489) // mong. *qongor* 'light-bay; blond; flexen; sorrel light-chestnut' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 104); 9) yak. *maŋās* 'with a white mark on the muzzle regardless of coat color (about domestic animals)' (BTSYAYA, VI 2009: 222) // mong. *maǧās* 'star' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 26). White broad band, connected with a large star on the forehead and exciting sides of the head, sometimes the eyes and face.

2. Two-component stems (4 items): 1) yak. *sïrdïk sālïr* 'light brown' // mong. *tsagān sāral* 'white and gray' (BAMRS, III 2002: 61). Color of the body from light sand to cream shade. The head is sometimes colored darker. Black mane and tail are very prominent. Limbs sometimes with an admixture of light hair; 2) yak. *qara čuoǧur* 'of dark color with light spots' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 3688) // mong. *qar tsōhor* 'black marked, with black spots' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 167). The entire body is decorated with pigmented spots. And they are on a snow-white wool; 3) yak. *qaraŋatïŋï küräŋ* 'dark brown' (Dictionary of the Yakut language, III 1959: 1327) // mong. *qar-qürän* 'dark brown' (BAMRS, IV 2002: 54) / a rich dark brown color, a shade of burnt coffee or chocolate, almost close to black. The tail of a horse's mane can be either in the

color of a horse or darker, due to darker hair; 4) yak. *kïhïl ulān* 'reddish-gray' // mong. *ulān bor* 'reddish-gray' (BAMRS, III 2001: 316).

Discussion

One-component lexical parallels in terms of structural types are considered in the following order:

1) with an absolute coincidence of 39% (5): 1) [VCV: C] = [VCV: C]: yak. *ulān* 'bright gray' // mong. *ulān* 'red, scarlet, rosy'; 2) [CV: CVC] = [CV: CVC]: yak. *sālïr* 'light-bay' // mong. *sāral* 'gray, ashen, dirty (about color); dun'; 3) [CVCVC] = [CVCVC]: yak. *kürän* 'bay' // mong. *qürän* 'brown, bay; dark-red (about coat color)'; 4) [CVCV: C] = [CVCV: C]: yak. *maŋās* 'with a white mark on the muzzle regardless of coat color (about domestic animals)' // mong. *mağās* 'star'; 5) [CV: CVC] = [CV: CVC]): yak. *būlur* (burul) 'flecked' // mong. *būral* 'flecked; gray'. According to the semantic criterion of V.I. Rassadin, proposed for the definition of Mongolian borrowings in Turkic languages (Rassadin, 1980: 7), the Yakut stems of "*sālïr*", *"būlur",* and "*kürän* " are in all probability late borrowings from the Mongolian language. This criterion testifies to the Mongol origin of words, when the word entered the Turkic languages (in our case in Yakut) in any one meaning (in our case only as a coat color of a horse), often in a figurative manner, while in the Mongolian languages this word has all its basic direct and portable meanings (mong. *bōral* 'flecked, gray', mong. *sāral* 'gray, ashen, dirty (about color); dun (about coat color), mong. *qürän* 'brown, dark-red (about coat color)'.

2) exposed to structural changes - 31% (4): 1) [CVCV] → [CVC]: yak. *qara* 'black' // mong. *qar* 'black'; 2) [VCV] → [VCVC]: yak. *ala* 'marked' // mong. *alag* 'piebald'; 3) [CV, CVC] → [CV: CVC]: yak. *čuoğur* 'flea-bitten' // mong. *tsōqor* 'marked, spotty pock-marked, freckled; flea-bitten'. The Yakut *čuoğur*, perhaps, was borrowed from the medieval Mongolian language in the 13th-14th centuries. Preservation of the sibilant affricate of the Middle Mongolian [č] in the Yakut language is a characteristic feature of the medieval Mongolian language. In the Mongolian language, this affricate has undergone a change and is represented in the modern Mongolian as a fricative stop [ts]. 4) [CVCVC] → [CVCCVC]: yak. *qoŋor* 'skewbald' // mong. *qongor* 'light-bay; blond; flexen; sorrel light-chestnut'. Here there is a narrowing of the lexical meaning of the Yakut form. According to V.I. Rassadin, one of the indicators of Mongolian borrowing in the Yakut language is the in-line correspondence of the mong. element [ng] to yak. [ŋ] with narrowing of lexical meaning: mong. *ongyča* 'trough, deck, for the watering of cattle; boat, ship' // yak. *oŋočo* 'boat', mong. *qongor* 'light-bay; blond; flexen; sorrel light-chestnut '// yak. *qoŋor* 'skewbald'.

31% of horse coat color consists of two-component stems, the way of formation gives an additional shade:

Adjective with a color meaning with an intensive function + adjective with a color meaning (2): 1) yak. *qaraŋatïŋï kürän* 'dark brown' // mong. *qar-qürän* 'dark brown'; 2) yak. *sïrdïk sālïr* 'blue dun'// mong. *tsagaan sāral* 'off-white'. In these examples, the adjectives '*qaraŋatïŋï*' and *'sïrdïk'* with intensity meaning give the coat color a dark and light tint. Both Yakut adjectives are formed in accordance with the type of coordination, where the dependent stems are '*qarangatyngy* ' and *'sïrdïk'*, which are likened to the main stems - *'kürän* ' and *'sālïr'*. The Yakut foundation *'qaraŋatïŋï'* is formed with the help of the affix - *tyngy*, which conveys the meaning of the "washiness, weakness" of the brown color.

Adjective with color meaning + adjective with color meaning (2): 1) yak. *qara čuoğur* 'dark with light spots' // mong. *qar tsooqor* 'black-and-white, with black spots'; 2) yak. *kïhïl ulān* 'reddish-gray' // mong. *ulān bor* 'reddish-gray'. Yakut lexical two-component adjectives are formed by the type of coordination. In the Yakut *'qara čuoğur'* the first component carries a qualifying function of coat color, and the second component is the main color with light spots. In the adjective *'kïhïl ulān'* the first stem specifies the main coat color - *'ulān'*, denoting a gray color.

As for the lexical and semantic features of the Yakut-Mongolian parallels, in 31% of parallels the lexical meanings of the stems are stable:

1) yak. *būlur* (burul) 'flecked' // mong. *būral* 'flecked'. Both colors have a strong admixture of white hair (not gray hair) against any coat color. The head and lower parts of the horse's legs often have the least number of white hair and retain the color of the main coat color, and the eyes and hooves are always dark. The color does not change with age (see Pic.1).

2) yak. *kïhïl ulān* 'reddish-gray' // mong. *ulān bor* 'reddish-gray'. Yellowish-sandy or golden with a black mane and tail, including the legs to the hock and wrist joints (see Figure 2).

3) yak. *maŋās* 'with a white mark on the muzzle regardless of coat color (about domestic animals)' // mong. *mağās* 'star'. In the Yakut and Mongolian languages the stem has an identical characteristic of the mark of the horse in the form of a white broad band on the muzzle covering the nose and lips (see Pic. 3).

4) yak. *qara* 'black' // mong. *qar* "black". The black horse has a black color throughout the trunk, head, limbs, mane and tail (see Pic. 4).

The 39% (5) of the Yakut stems with respect to the Mongolian stems were subjected to insignificant lexical changes, of which the narrowing of the lexical meaning of lexemes was noted in 4 cases:

1) yak. *küräŋ* 'brown' // mong. *qüräŋ* 'brown'; dark-red (about coat color)'. Unlike Mongolian variant, Yakut *küräŋ* 'brown' means a certain color, in which the trunk and head of the horse have a chestnut color or the color of burnt coffee, and the mane and tail are darker, with an admixture of black hair. Yakut brown horse often has a dark belt along the ridge (see Figure 5). The Mongolian variant, besides the brown coat color, also means brown and dark-red colors.

2) yak. *čuoğur* 'flea-bitten' // mong. *tsōqor* marked, spotty pock-marked, freckled; flea-bitten'. Yakut color *čuoğur* 'flea-bitten' means the presence of small spots on a white background or white spots on the dark (see Pic. 6). In Mongolian language this color is used in several meanings: a) the presence of round small spots; b) a strip along the chine; c) the presence of mountain ash; d) the flecked color.

3) yak. *qaraŋatïŋï küräŋ* 'dark brown' // mong. *qar-qü*rän 'dark brown'. Brown horse of the Yakut breed has a rich dark brown shade of burnt coffee or chocolate. The mane, tail and lower limbs are usually black (see Pic. 7). In the Yakut stem *qaraŋatïŋï küräŋ* 'dark brown' is represented by lighter brown in intensity than in Mongolian.

4) yak. *qara čuoğur* 'dark with light spots' // mong. *qar tsōqor* 'black-and-white, with black spots'. All the trunk of the horse of the given color is covered with pigmented spots, which are on the background of snow-white wool (see Pic. 8). Unlike the Yakut in the Mongolian *qar tsōqor* means colorfulness.

The lexical extension of tokens is fixed in parallel yak. *ala* 'marked' // mong. *alag* 'piebald'. Yakut adjective *ala* ''marked' has an extensive interpretation than Mongolian *alag* 'piebald'. This is due to the fact that the Yakut *ala* means a white strip along the ridge (see Figure 9), and the Mongolian *alag* means large spots scattered over the body of irregular shape.

Notable lexical changes occurred in 31% (4) parallels: 1) yak. *ulān* 'light gray' // mong. *ulān* 'red, scarlet, rosy"; 2) yak. *sālïr* 'light-bay' // mong. *sāral* 'gray, ashen, dirty (about color); dun'; 3) yak. *qoŋor* 'skewbald'// mong. *qongor* 'light-bay; blond"; 4) yak. *sïrdïk sālïr* 'light brown' // mong. *tsagaan sāral* 'white and gray'. The given lexical parallels have the same structure [VCV: C; CV: CVC; CVCVC, CVCCVC C: CVC] and similar phonostructural types, but differ in that they denote different kinds of horse coat colors. In connection with the fact that the Yakut-Mongolian forms have a similar structure with regular phonetic changes and refer to one thematic group of terms of horse coat colors, yak. *ulān* // mong. *ulān*, yak. *sālïr* // mong. *saral*, yak. *qoŋor* // mong. *khongor*, yak. *sïrdïk sālïr* // mong. *tsagaan sāral* are regarded as lexical parallels. It is

interesting for us that the "ulān" lexeme is recorded only in the Yakut and Mongolian languages, and in other East Turkic languages there is no term "ulān", which denotes any kind of horse coat color.

Conclusion

The phonostructural, lexical-semantic, morphological, and distributive analyzes allow us to draw the following conclusions:

1. In the course of the study, according to the lexicographic sources we identified 13 Yakut and Mongolian lexical parallels, indicating of horse coat color. Of the fixed 13 Yakut stems that have parallels in the Mongolian language, 10 (77%) are in all probability borrowed from the Mongolian language. This is explained by the preservation in Yakut language: the initial [s] (yak. *sālïr* / mong. *sāral*); preservation of the Middle-Mongolian hushing affricate [ch]; corresponding to the modern [ts] (yak. *čuoğur* / mong. *tsoohor* (mid. mong., *čooqor*)); preservation of the pleophonic short syllables characterized of the medieval Mongolian language (yak. *küräŋ //* mong. *qüräŋ*), and others.

2. The distribution of lexical parallels in terms of component features is represented as follows: one-component - 9 (69%), two-component - 4 (31%). The one-component lexical parallel *'maŋās'* in both languages denotes the mark of the horse, the remaining one-component parallels denote the main colors of the horse. All two-component Yakut-Mongolian parallels denote color types of basic coat colors.

3. Stability of structural design of the Yakut lexemes in relation to Mongolian forms is observed in 39% of cases according to the following structural types: [VCV: C] = [VCV: C]: yak. *ulān //* mong. *ulān*, [CV: CVC] = [CV: CVC]: yak. *sālyr //* mong. *sāral*, [CVCVC] = [CVCVC]: yak. *küräŋ //* mong. *qüräŋ*, [CVCV: C] = [CVCV: C]: yak. *maŋās //* mong. *mağās*, [CV: CVC] = [CV: CVC]: yak. *būlūr //* mong. *būral*. The Yakut stems *"sālïr "*, *"būlur"*, *"küräŋ "*, in all probability, are late borrowings from the Mongolian language. This is explained by the fact that the Mongolian words entered the Yakut lexicon in figurative meaning as 'the horse coat color', although in Mongolian languages these words have their basic direct and portable meanings (Rassadin, 1980).

4. The main reasons for the instability of the phonological structures of the adjective of the Mongolian language in Yakut language are explained by following: in disyllabic stems, the formation of a final vowel [a] (yak. *qara //* mong. *qar*); the omission of an auslaut consonant element [r] (yak. *ala //* mong. *alag*); the correspondence of the long vowels [oo] to the Yakut diphthong [yo] (yak. *čuoğur //* mong. *tsōqor*), etc.

5. All two-component complex adjectives in the Yakut language are formed from combinations of words that are subordinated to one another in accordance with the method of coordination. All dependent stems in complex adjectives show the intensity and specify the coat color.

6. As a result of a comparative analysis of the lexical and semantic features of the Yakut-Mongolian reflexes, the stability of lexical meanings is noted in 31% of parallels. Minor lexical changes occurred in 38% of the reflexes when the semantic meaning of the stems narrowed and expanded. Noticeable lexical changes are observed in 31% of parallels.

The examined Yakut-Mongolian parallels show that the Mongols had a great influence on the Yakuts in the horse breeding activity. As is known, the Mongolian peoples have long led a nomadic way of life: they bred a large number of horses, which provided them with the exception of a source of food, clothing, as well as the freedom to move to vast spaces during migrations (Bachaeva, 2016). Attention is drawn to the presence of a rather large number of Mongolisms in Yakut, which denote the horse coat color. Preserving the lexical meaning and background structure of the borrowed stems in Yakut creates a firm impression that the Mongolian tribes, who handed over to the Yakuts a large number of terms related to horse breeding, cattle breeding, haymaking, they had mastered cattle-breeding activities much earlier than the Yakuts. This fact is also confirmed in the works of V.I. Rassadin (1980) and N.K. Antonov (1966).

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Appendix

Picture 1.

Picture 2.

Picture 3.

Picture 4.

Picture 5.

Picture 6.

Picture 7.

Picture 8.

Picture 9.