

## **Contacts of Korean and Turkic in the Early Period**

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During the last century, much research has been done concerning the affinity of the Korean language and several hypotheses have been proposed. Besides affinity with the Altaic languages, affinity with Japanese, Paleo-Asiatic, Dravidian, and even the Indo-European languages have been proposed. However, the Altaic origin of Korean is corroborated better than any other theory or hypothesis established so far. The outspoken supporters of the Korean-Altaic theory are G. Ramstedt, P. Aalto, K. Menges, Baskakov and R. A. Miller. Most scholars degree supporting the Altaic theory don't believe that there is the of relation between the Altaic languages. Proposing the Chuvash-Turkic-Mongolian-Manchu-Tungus unit, N. Poppe maintained that Korean has a more distant relation to the Altaic unit. Ramstedt, the founder of Altaic theory, however, had proposed the theory in his article "Über die Stellung des Korea-nische" that of Altaic languages, Korean, along with being closely related to Tungus, also has the same relation to Turkic. As for the author of these lines, there are many considerable cognates between Korean and Turkic from both the phonological and morphological point of view.<sup>1</sup>

On the other hand, besides the cognates not a few Turkic loan-words are found in Korean. In Korean there are two kinds of Turkic loan-words; Turkic loan-words in the earlier period of Korean and Turkic loan-words in Middle Korean in the middle of the 13th century. The latter were borrowed into Ko-

1 Between Korean and Turkic about 180 common glossaries and 90 common morphological elements are found. More than 90 % of these common elements have their own "third witnesses(troisième témoin)", that are Mongolian or Manchu-Tungus, being three- or four-way correspondences. han-woo Choi, *Korece ile Türkçenin Karşılaştırmalı Morfoloji-si (Comparative Morphology of Turkic and Korean)*. Unpublished Dissertation Ankara 1989.

rean through Mongolian during 60 years Mongolian rule of Korea.

Putting Turkic loan-words in Middle Korean aside, I would like to deal with Turkic loan-words in the earlier period of Korean in this paper. These Turkic loan-words probably belong to Proto or Ancient Turkic. Following are Turkic loan-words in Korea in the Proto or Ancient period:

1. Ko. *ori* 'duck': In modern Korean, there is the word *ori* meaning duck, which was probably borrowed from Turkic. The form *orh* or *orhi* appears in Middle Korean. In the form *orh*, /h/ is an additional phoneme which is added to certain noun words in Middle Korean. In the latter form *orhi*, the suffix *-i* is a denominal noun suffix which is very common in Korean. On the other hand, this word appears in the Turkic languages. While in the Yakut language, there is the word in the form of *or* meaning 'duck', Ancient Uygur has the form *ördek* with the same meaning (Ligeti 1966: 190). As for the word *ördek*, Clauson (1972: 205) supposed that the word derived from the verb *ör*- 'rise up' with a deverbal noun suffix *-dek*. In Turkic, however, we can not find the suffix *-dek*. In my opinion, the word *ördek* is a compound of two different words being hendiadion i.e. *ör* and *dek*. While the word *ör* is of Turkic, *dek* is probably of unknown origin.

2. Ko. *turumi* 'crane': *turumi* is probably a Turkic loan-word in Ancient Korean. In Orkhon Turkic there is *turunya* 'crane'. Kashgarli Mahmud contains the word in the form of *turna*. Of later Middle Turkic languages, Kypchak, Kuman and Osman Turkic have the same word, *turna*. In many modern Turkic languages, the word occurs; Azeri and Türkmen *durna*, Özbek *turna*, Tuva *durya* and Yakut *turuya*, etc. From Yakut, the word passed to Evenki *turuya*. In Japanese the word appears in the form of *туру*, the last syllable being dropped. It is interesting that the similiar form to the Japanese is found in Ural languages, Wotyak *turi*, Ostyak *ta.ra*, etc. The word was borrowed from Oguz Turkic to Iranian and Kurdish in the form of *durna*.

5. Ko. *Kakkan* 'a title': In Silla<sup>2</sup> the title *kakkan* ( 角千 ACh. *kâk-kân*) occurs designating a ruler of the tribal confederacy.<sup>3</sup> In Kokurye which is also

2 Silla kingdom was an ancient Korean state and was located in the south-eastern parts of Korea.

3 Kim Yu-Sin, a hero of Silla, who played a main role to unify Korean states in the peninsula and established the Unified Silla Kingdom, was entitled with 太大角千 'The Greatest Kagan'.

one of the Ancient Korean states located in the northern parts of Korea, the word *kakan* ( 可汗 ACh. *k'a-yân*) appears in the phrase 日箕子可汗等神, designating a god's name. However, the word originally might mean ruler or emperor. On the other hand, in the Orkhon Inscriptions the title *qayan* 'ruler, emperor' occurs many times. Both *kakkan* ( 角千 ) and *kakan* ( 可汗 ) occurring in the ancient Korean might have been borrowed from Proto or Ancient Turkic.

The etymology of the Turkic word *qayan* is still unknown. However, it is obvious that the word is a compound of *qa* and *qan*. The latter one *qan*, occurs in the Orkhon Inscriptions not a few times designating king or ruler. In Silla, besides the word 千 (*qan*) being used alone as a title, the word appears in other titles, i.e. 麻立千 *maripkan*, 居西千 *kəsəkan*, 獄千 *okkan*, 述千 *surkan*, etc.

As for the title *qa* which we cannot find in other Altaic languages, it is attested in the titles of Puye state: 馬加 *maka* 'horse ruler', 猪加 *ceka* 'fig ruler', 半加 *uka* 'bull ruler' and 狗加 *kuka* 'wolf ruler'. In these Puye titles, the word *ka* means 'ruler, governor'. The title *qa* also occurs in two titles of Kokurye, 古雛加 *kočuka* 'the leader of royal family, prince' and 相加 *saŋka* 'a ruler'.

In the Altaic languages, while the titles *qa* and *qan* designated leader of a tribe or governor, *qayan* designated the ruler of tribal confederacy or emperor. Actually, if we translate *qayan* literally, it means 'king of kings'.

The word *qayan* occurs in Tabghach or T'opa language which is considered as Proto-Turkic in the form of 句汗 designating the ruler of T'opa.

The Proto or Ancient Turkic word *qayan* was borrowed into many other languages. In the middle Persian document *Mahrnamag*, the form *xāyan* is attested. Besides Persian, in many other non-Altaic languages the word was borrowed, including Tibet, Uralic, and European languages. (See Doerfer IV: 1161).

6. Ko. *coc* 'an adult's penis': Though in historical documents of Korean it is not attested because of its particular meaning, the word *coc* probably have being existed from Ancient Korean so far. The Uzbek language has *cocaq* meaning 'a boy's penis'. The word *cocaq* consists of the stem *coc* and *-aq* which is a diminutive suffix, e.g. Uyg. *yulaq* 'a small brook, a small spring' < *yul* 'brook, spring', MK *könäk* 'a container made of leather (< "a small leather object)' < *kön* 'a tanned leather', etc. On the other hand, in Korean

there is the word *caci* meaning 'the penis'. This word might be derived from *coc* with the suffix *-i* which is a very productive denominal suffix.

7. Ko. *bora* 'snowstrom': In Korean this word is used only with *nun* meaning 'snow' in the form of *nunbora* 'snowstorm'. This word occurs in the Orkhon Inscriptions in the form of *bor* 'snowstorm, rainstorm'. Chagatay has the form *boraγan* which was borrowed from Mongolian. This word also occurs in modern Turkic languages; Trkm. *bo:ra:n* 'snowstorm', Kzk. *boran* id., Tuv. *bora:n* id., Tat. *buran*, etc. However, these are all borrowed from Mongolian. Interestingly, Anatolian Turkish has the form *bora* meaning 'storm'. The Turkish form is a result of paragoge. On the other hand, besides *boran* Kazak has the verb *bora-* 'to storm'. This form confirms that the proto form of the word is *\*bor*. In Turkic, the suffix *-a* is a denominal verb suffix.

Among Altaic languages, Written Mongolian has the cognate of the word in the form of *boroγan* meaning 'storm'. In Evenki the form *burkan* meaning 'snowstorm' is attested.

7. Ko. *cokha* 'nephew': As far as I know, there are no traces of this word in either Mongolian or Manchu-Tungus. However, it is attested in the Orkhon Inscriptions in the form of *čiqan* meaning 'nephew, son of one's aunt'.

8. Ko. *toγa* 'strong; string': This word occurs only in the phrase *toγa cur* meaning 'a thick and strong cord or string' (*cur* 'string, cord'). The word *toγa* is very common in Old and Middle Turkic. In the 12th century, Kashgarli Mahmud stated in his dictionary that the word originally meant 'tiger'. Maintaining that Kashgarli's statement is not yet confirmed by any other researcher, Clauson (1972: 515) suggests 'hero, outstanding warrior' or the like for the meaning. Ibnü Mühenna gives 'strong, hard' as opposed to 'weak' in his dictionary. On the other hand, this word appears in Chinese sources as a title name of Turkic tribe, consisting of two Chinese characters; 同俄 (ACh. *d'ung-nga*, Sino-Ko. *toγa*). Evenki has the word in the form of *tuγa* meaning 'bandage, string'.

10. Ko. *tor* 'hero, duck': In an ancient source, the title *\*tor* appears, in the name *sobərtori* (蘇伐都利) who was a leader of an ancient Korean village Kohə (古墟) of Silla. In another ancient Korean source, this name is

4 Most scholars read the Turkic word *bayator* with the last vowel being /u/, not /o/. Actually it is very difficult to determine the exact qualities of Proto-Turkic labial vowels in

written as 蘇伐公 in Chinese. In the source the word *tori* (< \**tor*) was translated by the Chinese word *Kung* 公 meaning 'prince, duck'.

The word *tor* is attested in the Ancient Turkic title *bayator* meaning 'hero'. As for the word *bayator*,<sup>4</sup> we find the word in a Runic manuscript from Miran and Tunhuang in Eastern Turkestan.<sup>5</sup> I think that this word consists of two words: *baya* and *tor*. The word *baya* is probably the same word as *baqa* 'frog, toad'.<sup>6</sup> In Turkic, the phonetic change of /q/ and /ɣ/ is very common between vowels, e.g. Uyg., MK *buqa* 'bull', Chag. *buya* id., Kum. *boya* id. Actually, the word *baqa* in Uygur is attested in the form of *baya* in both Kypchak and Osman. Here we can deduce that the word *bayator* might mean 'prince of toads or frogs' or the like, designating a hero metaphorically.

It is not surprising that *baya* in the word *bayator* is the same as the word *baqa* meaning 'toad or frog'. As is well known, in the ancient period, Hyungnu and Turkic peoples took their titles from animals' names, e.g. *baqa tarqan* 'ruler of frogs', *boqa qayan* 'king of bulls', *böri qayan* 'king of wolfs', *sonkor tigin* 'prince of hawks', etc. This tradition seems to have something to do with their totemism. We can find this kind of example in our own ancient state Puye. In the Puye state, the ruling organization of the state was based on the four-governors system under the reign of ruler-king. We call the system *Sachulto* 四出道 meaning 'four out-way'. The four governors' titles took after animal names, i.e. horse, bull, pig and wolf. It is very interesting that, although the animal toad never seems to be a symbol of hero or warrior, we Koreans also have the term '*Tukkæbi Chang'kun* (將軍)' meaning 'warrior or hero of toads' literally. This term must be a Korean translation of

many cases. However, in this case, we can determine the vowel from the Chinese transliteration of the word 都利(*tori*). See the article, Choi Han-Woo, "On the determination of labial vowels of Ancient Turkic", *Central Asiatic Journal*, Vol. 35: 1-2, pp. 41-53.

5 The word *bayator* occurs in an Uygur text in the two forms; Uyg. (USp 22: 18) *bayator* and Uyg. (ThS IV: 12) *bator*. Kuman has the form *bayatur* meaning 'brave man'. On the other hand, this Turkic word was borrowed into Mongolian; Mo. *bayatur* 'hero, warrior', MMo. *ba'atur* id. In Middle Korean, there is *pator* 'hero, warrior' which was borrowed from Mongolian in the 13th century. The word *bator* (< \**bayator*) in Mongol continues in the name of capital city of the Mongol Republic, *Ulan Bator*.

6 On the other hand, the word *baqa* is not of Turkic origin, but of Chinese origin; compounded of ACh. *ma* [蟆] > M. *ma*, C. *ma* 'frog', Sino-Jap. *ba* id. (Giles 7590), Sino-Ko. *ma* id., and ACh. *ra* [蝦] > M. *ha*, C. *ha* 'frog, toad', Sino-Jap. *ka* id. (Giles 4199), Sino-Ko. *ha* id. cf. Mo. *baxa* 'frog, toad'.

the Turkic term *bayator* 'hero of toads'.

On the other hand, the word *tor* which is not attested except in the word *bayator* in Turkic, continues in Korean in the form of *tori* (< \*tor + denominal suffix -i) meaning 'a brave boy' or the like.

11. Ko. *wəri* 'a dog like wolf': In the southern parts of Korea, people call a big and wild dog like wolf *wəri*. This word occurs in the Orkhon Inscriptions, which is the oldest Turkic inscriptions, in the form of *böri* meaning 'wolf' in the sentence *böri teg ermiş* '(the kagan) was like a wolf' (KT E 12, BK E 11). The word also was used in the proper name *Er Böri* 'male wolf', as well as in the title *Böri Kayan* 'the king of Wolves' in Ancient Turkic. The word *böri* is attested in most of the historical languages of Turkic, i.e. Uygur, Karahan, Chagatay, etc. in the form of *böri* or *börü*. The word which, as far as I know, never occurs in both Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus, was borrowed into non-Altaic languages, i.e. Yenisey Ostyak *börü* and Russian *birük*, etc. (Doerfer II 784).

#### ABBREVIATIONS

ACh.: Ancient Chinese

Clauson: G. Clauson, *An Etymological Dictionary of Pre-Thirteenth Century Turkish*. Oxford 1972.

Doerfer: G. Doerfer, *Türkische und mongolische Elemente im Neupersischen I-IV*. Wiesbaden 1963-1975.

Giles: H.A. Giles, *A Chinese-English Dictionary*. 1912.

Ligeti: L. Ligeti, *Un Vocabulaire sino-ouïgour des Ming. Le Kao-tch' ang-kouan yi chou du bureau des traducteurs*. in: *Acta Orientalia scientiarum Hungaricae* 19 (1966): 117-199, 257-316.