

IMAGINATIVE SPECIFICATIONS OF LOOK IN MONGOLIAN LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The article examines figurative words of Mongolian languages, which characterize the glance and appeared in result of verbalization of visual perception. The author applies semantics of figurative words to the meanings of so called basic words of obscure etymology, particularly the verbs of seeing. It's revealed that the tremulous sonant [r] in stems reflects the idea of eye shine.

Keywords: figurative words, glance, the Mongolian languages.

ОБРАЗНЫЕ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ВЗГЛЯДА В МОНГОЛЬСКИХ ЯЗЫКАХ

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье рассматриваются образные слова монгольских языков, характеризующие взгляд человека или животных и возникшие в результате вербализации его зрительного восприятия. Автор проецирует значения образных слов на значения так называемой базовой лексики, в частности глаголов смотрения.

Ключевые слова: образные слова, взгляд, монгольские языки.

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It is well known that the eyes of both people and animals due to its optical properties can reflect the light entering them: the eyes can flash, shine, sparkle etc. In Mongolian languages a layer of original words are represented, which characterizes the look of a man, sometimes of animals, in addition, most of them contains root consonants [r] and [l]. This fact is due to the acoustic-articulator characteristics of fore lingual trembling sonant [r], serving as a transfer broken-fold light traffic, which complicates or breaks visual perception So, the root *ir/irb shows the sharp pain of eyes from glare: п.-mong. ирга-, mong. ярга-, bur. ирга- 'to grate on, to chop (about the pain of eyes)', п.-mong. иралĵ-, mong. яралз-, kalm. ярлз-, оуг. Синьцз. йаралза- 'to ripple, to iridescent, to shine, to sparkle'. The roots *sar/ĉar are also correlated with bright, blinding flash of light: п.-mong. ĉargi-, mong. царги- 'to go blind (from snow shining)', bur. һарга- 'to blind eyes (by sunrays)'. These examples reflect the absolute upper limit of sensations, where the intensity of the stimulus involves a change of sensations' modality: very bright flash, perceived by retinal nerve endings, arouses the pain, accompanied with an internal tremble, what arouses discomfort. The retina, unable to adapt to the full range of light, sends a signal to the brain, and the brain processes signal, sends a command to the circular muscle of the eye, and the man begins to squint. A number of imaginative adjectives begin from a consonant [j]: p. мо. ĵermeger, mong. зэрмэгэр, оуг. зеремгер 'having clever and narrow eyes'; bur. зэртэгэр, kalm. зертһр

'goggle (about eyes); squint', оуг. зэртээ- 'big eyes, wide open eyes (about eyes)'; p. мо. ĵirmaĵar, ĵirmeger (Kowalewski, 1849: 2370), mong. жармагар, жирмэгэр, оуг. жирмегер 'screwed up, narrow-eyed'; p. мо. ĵirtaĵar, mong. жартгар, bur. жартагар, kalm. жиртһр, оуг. жиртегер 'inverted eyelid; narrow-eyed'; p. мо. ĵirtelĉe- 'to wink each other', ĵirmelĉe- 'to look voluptuous' (Kowalewski, 1849: 2368); ĵirmeyi- 'to close, to screw up eyes' (Kowalewski, 1849: 2369); p. мо. ĉirtaĵar, mong. чартгар 'eye with a raised corner of eyelid'. Relative to kir. жыртак 'trachoma; running, lachrymatory', tuv. чыртақ 'fester, sick' L. C. Levitskaya considers possibility of Mongolian origin forms, because "in trachoma during the scarring the palpebral cartilage distorts, arousing volvulus of eyelid edges. Scope of all meanings in list of Turkic and Mongolian forms, reflects different signs of eye diseases: festering, running, inverted" (ЭСТЯ, 1989: 43). Probably, meaning development of 'flirt, pose, grimace' is due to the behavior of denotation, characterized by Russian phrase "shoot eyes": p. мо. ĵerteger, mong. зэртгэр 'coquette, coquet', bur. зартагана- 'grimace'; p. мо. ĵirbaĵar, mong. жарвагар 'poseur, affected'. Notability that Mongolian roots with first affricative

[j] coincide with Russian 'see, vision, look, glance, inform. 'зыр-ить' etc. Tense, rigid and also unfriendly gaze at someone, something transmitted through the roots *sirt/sirb/durb: p. mo. sirte- 'to look, to see, to view, to stare, overview' (Kowalewski, 1849: 1533), mong. ширт-, bur. шэртэ-, kalm. ширт-, оуг. ширте- 'fix eyes, glue eyes; scrutinize'; p. mo. sirbe-, мо. ширвэ- 'throw an unfriendly glance'; p. mo. sirbigine- 'to squint eyes' (Kowalewski, 1849: 1531), mong. ширвэгнэ- 'now expand, now narrow (about pupils of eye)'; p. mo. dürbelje-, mong. дүрвэлз- 'to look, dig into sharp eyes'; p. mo. dörde- (Tumurtogoo, 2006: 371), p. mo. dördeyi-, mong. дөрдий- 'staring eyes, peering intently, gawp'; мо. дөрдгөр нүд 'hectic, fast shifty eyes' Prekl.-мо. giraqai nidü (Tumurtogoo, 2006: 243, 405), p.-мо. kiraqai nidün 'sharp-sighted, vigilance', kiruуu nidün 'rapid eye, vigilance' (Kowalewski, 1849: 2546, 2549), мо. гярхай 'possessing exceptional visual memory', гярхай нүд 'eye, vigilance; having good eyesight', бур.ал. харахай 'keen (about eyes)' of L. S. Levitskaya compares with Turkic кыра:н 'smart, tenacious, keen, without missing (about falconry), the best falcon, gyrfalcon, hawk, kite' (ESTYA, 2000: 233). Sr. ма. ирғаша- 'wink, make eyes; to look (askance, angrily)' (SSTMYA, 1975: 325). The semantic field of Turkic form кыра:н to some extent, confirms the fact that a number of birds' names in the Altai language appeared by the result of the manifestation of feature 'keen': sr.-мо. qarçıyai (Poppe, 1938: 293), p.-мо. qarçayai (Kowalewski, 1849: 850), мо. харцага, харцагай, bur. харцага, kalm. харцх, оуг. харцагаа 'hawk'. L. Ligeti, M. Rysyanyan, G. Ramstedt pointed on character of Turkic lexemes borrowed from Mongolian languages қарчыга 'hawk, kite, falcon'. However, for V. I. Rassadin N. I. Egorov and L. P. Petrov's point of view is the most real. According to their opinion the old Turkic form *qartıga 'hawk', old Mongolian's prototype *qartıya, is developed from old Turkic *qartıgan, formed on Turkish soil from the same Turkic verb stem *qartı- 'scratch, tear'. The first meaning of old Turkic orntonim *qartıgan was 'scratching, injuring (the bird)', i.e. 'bird of prey' (quoted in ESTYA, 1997: 318). Soft row root *kerç forms adjective p.-мо. kerçegei (Kowalewski, 1849: 2517), мо. хэрцгий, bur. хэрзэгы, оуг. керцегэа 'fierce, furious'; bur. hirzaga 'nervous, angry'; also p.-мо. uorquуur, мо. erhgor, bur. erhogor about man) (Rassadin, 1999: 137). Sr. эвенк. кэрчэмэ 'angry, stubborn'; ulch. кыру-кыру би 'angry, stubborn', orok. қира 'angry, stubborn, rude' (SSTMYA, 1975: 454, 399). The hypothesis about the development of this meaning based on the visual perception of eye verifies data from the Nanai language: «кирок-кирок 'throw angry looks, frown', кирму-кирму 'angered'» (Kile, 1973: 112). The root *kir/kirk gives p.-мо. kiraуui (Kowalewski, 1849: 2552), мо. хяргуй, kalm. кырһу 'соссух, gyrfalcon' and p.-мо. kiruуučai (Kowalewski, 1849: 2550), мо. хярууцай 'small hawk'. L. S. Levitskaya gives three points of view regarding the origin of common

lexemes in the Turkic language кырғы~кырғай~кыргуй 'kind of a bird of prey, hawk, falcon'. According to one of them, кырғый, genetically related to the verb stem кыр- 'destroy', Yu. Nemet hypothesized the connection of кырғый with кыр 'gray', but affix -ғый is not attached to the names of colors. And finally, D. H. Vazarova refers the generating basis uzb. Қирғий to ономатопоеия, звукоподражаниям, marking out primary кырк and affix -ий. The researcher relies on the ornithological literature, according to which in call of sparrow hawk, besides kik-kik-kik, differs clearly and jerky kirk-kirk-kirk. However, according to L. S. Levitskaya, by etymology of ornitonim it is doubtful to quote on kir. кырк-кырк, transmitting scream of kite, as long as versions of affix -ғый are very varied. The author suggests his own version, according to which кырғый мурунду can be interpreted as '[bird] with a hooked nose', while in kir. кыр мурун 'straight nose without hump' (ESTYA, 2000: 235-236). In Tungusic-Manchurian languages the meanings ма. ғуракуша- 'look around, squint' (SSTMYA, 1975: 173); ulch. сури-сури би 'slanting (about eyes)', nan. сурику 'squint', сури-сури бб 'slanting (about eyes)' (SSTMYA, 1977: 130), probably, also developed on the basis of visual perception of the eye, sr. p.-mo. qoruu (Kowalewski, 1849: 962), mo. хоруу 'walleye; white spot; 'cataract'; evenk. јари 'walleye' (SSTMYA, 1975: 343), эргэлэк 'walleye' (SSTMYA, 1977: 463). The labialized versions of roots gave: p.-mo. ормууи-, mo. ормой- 'to gawk', kalm. орма-, оур. ормаа- 'look around; amazed; goggle', p.-mo. orbigena- 'look around, look in all directions, stare', örübелje- 'sparkled eyes; timorously look around, gawk' (Kowalewski, 1849: 464, 582); p.-mo. tormuyi-(Lessing, 1960: 827), mo. тормой- 'buckle'; p.-mo. tormulja-, mo. тормолз- 'shine (about bright black eyes)'; p.-mo. tormuyur (Lessing, 1960: 827), mo. тормогор, оур. тормаһар 'bright, shining, black, like a bird cherry tree (about eyes)'; p.-mo. nidü torni- 'open eyes, gape' (Kowalewski, 1849: 1890); p.-mo. gerel-ün öngges-i tordayulqu 'emit rays, shine, glare'; p.-mo. tordumal 'clear, light, shining, sparkle' (Kowalewski, 1849: 1895–1896). Sr. yak. тырымна- 'shimmer, sparkle (about eyes)'.

The functioning of the reduced number of verbs tempts to think that one of the main verbs watch sr.-mo. qara- (Поппе, 1938: 292), prekl.-mo. qara- (Tumurtogoo, 2006: 522), p.-mo. qara- (Kowalewski, 1849: 831), mo. хар-, bur. хара-, kalm. хар-, оур. хар-, ord. хара-, mog. qara-, mngr. харә- (EDAL, 2003: 648) 'see; look, watch' can also be associated with the ability of the eyes to reflect light, i.e. < 'shine, sparkle'. In Altai dictionary we found following parallels to verb qara-: Ptung. *kara- 'safe, protect' (the semantics of which, in our opinion, is comparable with mo. qaramna- 'grudge, stint'), Old Turkic *Karak 'pupil of eye, eye; look' (EDAL, 2003: 648). L. S. Levitskaya supposes that Turkic қаpaк is formed from

қаpa 'black' by adding of diminutive affix -к, confirming the reality of this etymology by the following facts: 1) the diminutive forms of name are commonly used in names of body parts, 2) қаpa 'black' is used to refer to the pupil, and 3) form қарашық and others are diminutive; 4) in tuv. and tof. қарақ 'eye', but қаpa 'look' (ESTYA, 1997: 296). A. V. Dybo, considering questionable the bond *karak 'eye' with *kara 'black', makes it from Alt. kara- 'look' (SIGTYA, 2001: 211). Possibly, indeed, the meaning karak 'eye' can be expressed as 'something shining, sparkling'. Sr. Nan. карок 'scowled, frown' (Kile, 1973: 107). The verb көр- ~ рөр- 'look, watch, see; worry, care, regard' is also represented in Turkic languages, this verb, as B. I. Tatarintsev remarked, has not satisfactory etymology. In particular, the nature of the relationship between көр- 'look' and көз ~ рөз 'eye' is not fully understood. A. V. Dybo ascribes *göz 'eyez' to *görs, considering –s of an affix-substantiate, and the noun – of an ancient derived from the verb *qör- 'see' (SIGTYA, 2001: 209). B. I. Tatarintsev holds to the different opinion, he revealed relationship between göz 'eye' and tur. dial. гоze 'the hole in roof, through which thatch is heaped up; the hole for transplanting cucumber; sieve', gözmek 'small hole', az. dial. гөзмөх 'hole, nares'. By the estimation of researcher in such foundations рөз- ~ көз- means not 'see; look', but something like 'perforate(ed)' and represents correspondence to prevailed disyllabic basis like kir. көзө- 'drill, perforate'. In this occasion рөз can mean not only 'eye', but also 'hole perforation' (Tatarintsev, 2004: 247).

The consonant [b] in anlaut indicates a lesser degree of sign's manifestation: börügsi- 'losing its vision (about eye sight of old men)' (Kowalewski, 1849: 1260), bur. бүрэгэр 'short-sighted', kalm. бүррр 'screwed up (about eyes)', оyr. бүрвегер

'Semi-closed, screwed up (about eyes)'. Thereby, we can conclude that the grid signs of shaped roots with "transparent" semantics are projected on the signs of the fundamental vocabulary, including designation of nature elements, components of flora and fauna, the range of body parts, the first ten numerals, verbs, conveying the basic steps etc. This approach opens up broad prospects for research in the field of etymology, psycholinguistics and lexical semantics of Mongolian languages. At the same time, different words are the valuable key to the discovery of nomination processes' essence in the basic vocabulary of the Mongolian languages.

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