Development of Turkic Studies in Ukraine*  
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(Article Sent on: 07.05.2019/ Article Accepted on: 25.07.2019)

Abstract
This paper is a study in the field of the development history of the Turkic Studies in Ukraine. The accent has been made on the actual importance of studying Turkish archival documents which are quite much related to identification of problems in the History of the Cossack Ukraine. A special focus has been made on the implementation by Omelian Pritsak of fundamental Turkic studies of problems relating to the history of the Ukrainian-Turkish relations, which was a significant investment in the development of the Turkic Studies. In particular, the situation in the Turkic society of the Karakhanidian period of history was the object the above said scholar had been studying. This paper also tells us that the scholar paid a lot of attention to studying the relations between the Cossack-Hetmanic Ukraine and the Ottoman Porte (or otherwise called “Sublime Porte”) in the middle of the 17th century. There has been underlined that O. Pritsak’s concept relating to the development of the Turkic Studies was implemented at the up-to-date stage of the development of this scientific branch in Ukraine, which is also true in regard of the re-orientation of the latter one onto the national foundations. Taking in account O. Pritsak’s methods of studying data sources, enables us to maximally objectively interpret a set of facts from Ukraine’s national History which have been kept undisclosed till nowadays.

Keywords: Turkic Studies, concept, Pritsak, Cossack, Sultan, methodology, the Crimea, Ukraine, Turkey

Studying the History of the Ukrainian Turkic Studies, is primarily based on analysing the academic achievements of scholars made yet at the initial stage of the development of this

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historical science. When considering in this context the Turkic Studies development, it should be said that the Crimean-Tatar and Turkish languages were known in Ukraine, and namely in the city of Lviv, as long ago as the second half of the 16th century.\footnote{Полотнюк Ярема. Сходознавство у Львівському університеті // Східний світ. 1993. № 2. С. 124.} One can find traces of the interest to the History of Oriental Studies on the territory of Ukraine yet in the Cossack-Hetmanic period. Particularly, it is known that Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky was well aware of the “Turkish world” and supported active relations with that.\footnote{Прицак Омелян. Ще раз про союз Б. Хмельницького з Туреччиною // Укр. археогр. щорічник. Вип. 2, Т. 5. Київ : Наук. думка, 1993. С. 183. 472 с.} It is obvious that representatives of the ruling class of the Ukrainian society during the above said historical period, for example ambassadors of the Hetmanic government, knew the Ottoman-Turkish language\footnote{Кочубей Ю. М. В. В. Дубровський (1897–1966) як сходознавець / Ін-т сходознавства ім. А. Ю. Кримського НАН України. Київ, 2011. С. 402–403. 544 с. (Серія «Наукова спадщина сходознавців»).}.

Interest to the history of Turkic peoples, as well as to written sources in Turkic languages originated in the Ukrainian historical conceptions at the end of the 17th century.\footnote{Туранли Фергад. Козацька доба історії України в османсько-турецьких писемних джерелах (друга половина XVI – перша чверть XVIII століття). – Київ: Вид. дім «Києво-Могилянська академія», 2016. С. 52–55. 606 с.} In Ukraine oriental studies were not performed as a separate academic field. Oriental languages were taught at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv Ecclesiastical Academy, Institute for Oriental Languages (within Richelieu Odesa Lyceum). From the beginning of the 19th century studying the Oriental World got concentrated at the historical-and-philological faculties at Kyiv and Kharkiv Universities.\footnote{Turanly Ferhad. The above said work. PP. 52–53; Полотнюк Ярема. The above said work. P. 124.}
Between the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century in Ukraine there were published a few academic works, in which their authors raised the issue of needs to study, within the national historical science, the oriental-related problems, particularly the ones concerning the Turkic aspects. For instance, such ideas were reflected in the creative work activity of Ivan Franko, who in 1915 wrote his work ‘The Crimean Khan Gazi-Giray and some of his poetry’ 6 about the Crimean ruler Gazi Giray II, as well as in other works. 7

It should be noted that, while implementing such academic Turkic studies during the second half of the 19th century, there began a formation of two general conceptual directions concerning the academic studying of a source content available in chronicles written in Turkic languages, and namely the following ones: 1) accumulating and general analyses of the data available in separate written documents; 2) thematical selection and systematisation of the information obtained from the corresponding historical written sources. Development of the latter direction accounted for the onset in the beginning of the 20th century of a specific thematic direction in making Turkic studies, within the limits of which the process of a step-by-step re-orientation of Turkic Studies started from the selection to making source-based studies of mainly separate fragments of original texts of documents written in Turkic languages, that is

6 Ruling years: 1587/1588 – 1596, 1596 – 1607.

In the academic sources there is said in reference of the said ruler of the Crimean Yurt that that one was the first poet, from who, owing to Ivan Franko, Ukraine began to open for itself the world of the Crimean-Tatar eloquent writing skills. See: Сеферова Ф. А. Поэтический перевод и национальная специфика // Ученые записки Таврического нац. ун-та имени В. И. Вернадского. Т. 23 (62). № 3. Серия «Филология. Социальные коммуникации». 2010. С. 203–207; See: Turanly F. The above said work. PP. 55–62.
The founder of the considered direction of making content-studies of written sources in the national Turkology (Turkic Studies) became the famous Ukrainian scholar-orientalist Agatangel Krymsky. The actual importance of the thematically specific content of Turkic studies in the national science of making Turkic studies was underlined by the modern Ukrainian orientalist Yury Kochubey. In particular, he informed the position and ideas of the Ukrainian scholar-orientalist of the 1930s – Vasyl Dubrovsky, who had stated that studying Turkish archival documents is of much importance to identify problems related to the history of Ukraine of the second half of the 17th century. This need was accounted for by an insufficient amount of “…Ukrainian archived sources, and for the unreliability of the Polish as well as for an incompleteness of the Moscovite sources…”. Under such conditions, due to the above said Turkologist, “the only way is to study the relating archival documents”. This idea formulated in the above said Yury Kochubey’s book is supported by the idea that “getting acquainted with oriental sources, primarily with ones from Turkish archives, can be important not only for the

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identification of the right conception of the real Turkish-Tatar-Ukrainian relations in the 16th and 18th cc., but it can be also useful for studying the initial history of the Ukrainian Cossackdom, which nowadays is still very non-transparent, because the sources represent it in quite a skewed-nature way” 11. Indeed, it is impossible to understand in full the history of the Ukrainian-Turkish relations during the above said period of time without taking in consideration the content of the Ottoman-Turkish written documents. As it is the Ottoman-Turkish written documents, that include a lot of informational potential content relating to the history of the Zaporozhian Sich, Ukrainian Cossack State and the activity of such Ukrainian rulers, as Dmytro Vyshnevetsky, Petro Sahaidachny, Bohdan Khmelnitsky, Ivan Vyshovsky, Petro Doroshenko, Ivan Mazepa, Pylyp Orlyk, as well as in regard of the relations of the then Ukraine with the Crimean Khanate, Ottoman Empire, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Austrian Empire 12.

It should also be noted that during the period of an active academic activity of Agatangel Krymsky the Ukrainian science of making Turkic studies was yet at the initial stage of its setting-up. At that time studies in the oriental history were concentrated at Lviv University. Particularly, it was this educational and academic institution, where the famous orientalist Mugammed Sadyk Agazade worked13, who, in fact, became a co-founder of the Ukrainian science of making oriental studies14. If to continue

12 Turanly F. The said work. pp. 56–58.
13 Years of living: 1865‒1944.
14 Particularlry, Mugammed Sadyk Agabekzade was tutor of such famous Ukrainian Orinetalsists engaged in Turkic Studies, as Yevhen Zavalynsky and Omelian Pritsak (see: Лист (№ 76) завідувача Львівського відділення Інституту історії України АН УРСР проф. І. П. Крип’якевича до директора Інституту С. М. Бєлоусова, 2 березня
consideration of this problem, we can state that after the end of the World War II another famous Ukrainian scholar started his academic activity – Omelian Pritsak, who studied Turkish and other oriental languages at Lviv University from 1936. While time was passing, Omelian Pritsak “...started to get more and more into Ottoman sources” 15. When being in emigration, he studied the situation in the Turkic society during the Karakhanid period, and on the base of this study in 1948 in Goettingen he defended his doctorate dissertation16. We should note that later Omelian Pritsak was recognized as one of the best scholars who had been studying Turkic written sources and historiography 17. There must be underlined that in his early works this scholar studied the problems relating to the relations between the Cossack-Hetmanic Ukraine and the Sublime Porte in the middle of the 17th century.18. In 1964 Omelian Pritsak became a Professor in the field of the General Linguistics and Turkic Studies


at the Harvard University. During his academic activity at that educational and scientific institution he carried out fundamental Turkic studies and published a set of academic papers on the problem of the science of making studies in the field of the development history of the Ukrainian-Turkish relations. In this context there should be mentioned the activity of the Ukrainian Historical Society and a noticeable significance of the journal ‘The Ukrainian Historian”, where academic papers of the Ukrainian Diaspora scholars, including the ones by Omelian Pritsak, were published.\(^{19}\) There must be also said that, owing to efforts of Omelian Pritsak, in 1973 within the Harvard University there was set up the Institute for Ukrainian Studies.\(^ {20} \) Therefore, this distinguished Ukrainian orientalist made a significant contribution into the development of the Science of making Turkic Studies in the Unites States of America. For example, the situation of the Turkic society during the Karakhanid historical period became his object for studying yet at the beginning stage of Omelian Pritsak’s academic activity. Besides, this scholar paid a lot of his attention to studying the relations between the Cossack-Hetmanic Ukraine and the Sublime Porte in the middle of the 17th century.\(^ {21} \)


Omelian Pritsak in his interview under the title *Ukraine’s History and Culture cannot be understood without the Science of Oriental Studies* published in the said journal pointed at the needs to concentrate academic studies of the Institute for Oriental Studies mainly just within the traditional Oriental Studies, that is he meant that it should be done primarily at the philological and historical levels of the determination of Oriental countries. This task meant for the scholar a prioritve development of such scientific branches, as the Hebrew Studies, Studies of the Arabic-Persian-Turkish World, Studies of the Euro-Asian Steppe Area, and particularly Studies of the Central Asia, India and Far East. It was this kind of academic directions development, that were to provide a base for studying the modern economic and political problems. Hence, it is necessary for us to determine the importance in the Modern Oriental Studies of a direction, according to which the corresponding scientific study shall be carried out.

In a large, by its content, scientific paper dedicated to the 120th Anniversary of the Birthday of Agatangel Krymsky, published in the above said journal, Omelian Pritsak paid a special attention to the modern interpretation of the comments, he was aware of, by the famous orientalists, on the concept of the development and tasks of the Ukrainian science of making oriental studies. A. Krymsky’s idea of the generally admitted unavoidable needs to study the Oriental History was grounded on the expression of the famous scholar that “the Ancient History of the Modern Ukraine was a place for living or a long-time dwelling of different oriental peoples”, and for that for that reason without making Turkic Studies, Arabic Studies and Irani
Studies ‘no multi-sided, that is not monosided, History of Ukrainian Studies was possible”. Besides, there was accentuated a specific need to have such a discipline, as the Turkic Studies. 23.

We should say, that just at that time there were published academic works by O. Pritsak dedicated to the problem of the development of diplomatic relations from the middle of the 16th century to the first quarter of the 18th century between the Ukrainian hetmans and the Sublime Porte, which in fact is connected with the thematical focus of our study. Particularly, in the scientific paper “Once more about the union of B. Khmelnysky with Turkey” the accent was made on the point, that studying the Black-Sea vector in the foreign policy of the Hetmanic Government made it possible “...to understand the reasons for the success of the Ukrainian rebellion in the late autumn of 1648”. It should be noted, that that study by Omelian Pritsak was made on a base of making a deeper study of Gadjji Mehmed Senayi’s and Mustafa Nayima Efendi’s chronicles, which we have studied too. An interesting point in the above said academic study is stating the fact of supporting the national-liberation struggle of the Ukrainians, headed by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, by Islam Giray III, ruler of the Crimean Yurt. O. Pritsak’s reconstruction of the military, and also of the political situation, which set up then in the north of the Black-Sea Area, is also interesting and important24. Another Omelian Pritsak’s scientific paper dedicated to the said problems was titled “One Pylyp Orlyk’s treaty or two ones with Turkey at the beginning of the second decade of the 18th century?”. The scholar studied the problem relating the reception of Hetman Pylyp Orlyk under the Turkish Sultan’s protectorate. Besides, the scholar also


performed a comparative analysis of the texts in Latin and in French, as well as translated into Ukrainian an archival Ottoman-Turkish document concerning the said historical event. What is important for us, it is provision in the above said academic work of a methodology for making a textological analysis. However, some ideas expressed by the author in his work required some specification. For example, this is true in relation of the date identification of the archival document itself, identification of its title, and also identification of the Ottoman-Turkish text of the original used then for making translation of that into Latin and into French.25

Omelian Pritsak’s ideas about needs for a prioritive development in making oriental studies, particularly for the ones in the field of Turkology, for providing a conceptual perception of the problems existing in the national history, were implemented to a large extent in academic studies by Yaroslav Dashkevych. This scholar repeatedly accented the actual importance of studying the historical relations between Ukraine and Turkey at the background of the up-to-date academic considerations, and he paid a lot of attention to the problem of enlargening the sources-base relating to Ukraine’s history on the ground of sources-based analysis of the oriental written documents.26

According to the scholar, the most serious drawback in the modern Turkic studies relating to the history of Ukraine was the fact, that those studied, till nowadays, have been carried out mainly by using historical written documents that originated in Ukraine, Russia, Poland or sometimes in a west-European

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country. As for the direct remnants of the Ottoman-Turkish writings are concerned, which include information on the history of Ukraine, those ones were involved in studies of sources very rarely\textsuperscript{27}.

Omelian Pritsak’s concept of the development of oriental studies was used at the modern stage of the development of the Ukrainian Turkic studies, and also in the re-orientation of this scientific branch of the historical knowledge onto the national basis, that is at making studies of the problems directly connected with the history of Ukraine\textsuperscript{28}. There has also got more activated the process of the involvement into the academic circulation of the recently found, yet being unknown till now, Ottoman-Turkish written documents, that include data about the actual problem of our study. For instance, there has been made a complex source-based study of corresponding written documents.\textsuperscript{29} Our study on the problem has resulted in the involvement into the academic circulation chronicle documents on Ukraine’s history and its Cossack period, which also include data on the history of the Cossack-Hetmanic Ukraine. Besides there has been taken into account one more important point: the historical period, that we have studied, was, on one hand, a period of the highest level in the development of the Ottoman-

Turkish written tradition, while on the other hand, it was the period of the peak level in the rise of the national liberating struggle of the Ukrainian people against the national oppression by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, to which both the Sublime Porte and the Crimean Khanate had something to do. Therefore, academic studies we have been performed in the context of the above said concept have brought its own results, and namely there has been identified the following: a) the source-material was either a base for separate sections of Ottoman-Turkish chronicles, or was available in fragments of original texts dedicated to another problem study; b) concerning its content orientation, the majority of that source materials were descriptions of the participation of Ukrainian Cossacks in military operations of the Sublime Porte forces and in those of the Crimean Khanate against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Muscovy, descriptions of joint military marches of the Zaporozhian Host, military forces of the Sublime Porte and military detachments of the Crimean Khanate against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Muscovy, and also messages about the diplomatic contacts between the Sublime Porte and the Cossack-Hetmanic Ukraine; c) the information, we have identified in the content of our studied sources, was detailed and true. As for sources-studying the data available in Ottoman-Turkish written documents, relating to the Cossack period in Ukraine’s history from the second half of the 16th century to the first quarter of the 18th century, our study has demonstrated a domination of the textological analysis of the originals of the corresponding remnants of the Ottoman-Turkish written tradition. And, within the limits of the first part of our academic study, besides providing fragments of the original texts of the written documents, which we have used for making our source-studies, there have been also given Ukrainian translations of the respective fragments with providing a wide commenting concerning the fragments. It should be noted that a more
detailed interpretations were associated with the original documental fragments, which included the most important information, so as to understand best both the essence and the specific features of the socio-economic and political processes, which were taking place in the Ukraine during its Cossack historical period – we mean the data, we have obtained from the monuments of the ancient Turkish writing; we have also systematised the identified data. We try to enlarge the sources-base of the Ukrainian historiography by using such a way and relying on a complex approach to making a sources-analysis of Turkish and Crimean-Tatar chronicle works written between the second half of the 16th century and the 18th century within the limits of the vakayi-nâme genre, as well as by using other Ottoman-Turkish written documents. The object for our study having been chronicle monuments of the Ottoman-Turkish tradition, the works took much in account the methodological achievements of the Turkish scholars in comparison with the achievements of the Ukrainian scholars and with the ones of the European academic world. By the way, we should not here that the European Historiography ignores to some extent the factor of the mutual intercivilisational cultural influence of the Middle-Aged Europe and the Oriental World in the epoch of the traditional social development. In this context, attention should be paid to the theoretical and methodological approaches to the History of the Humanity having been studied by both European scholars, and by scholars in Islamic oriental countries. Particularly, in Turkey and in the Arabic states. Hence, it should be stated that studies of Turkish scholars in the field of the History of the Ottoman Empire, including the ones concerning the above said historical period, the mentioned factor is becoming to be taken into consideration more and more\(^\text{30}\).

\(^{30}\text{Ahmet Davutoğlu, Genel Dünya Tarihi içinde Osmanlı’nın yeri: Metodolojik Meseleler ve Osmanlı Tarihinin yeniden yorumlanması, Osmanlı, Ankara, 1999, Cilt 7, s. 674–680. Turkish; Турани Ф. Методологічні проблеми дослідження османської}
Summary

Consideration of the problem of studying the development history of the Turkic Studies in Ukraine, particularly studying the academic heritage of Omelian Pritsak in the context of implementing his theory and concepts about the source-studies of the Ottoman-Turkish written documents relating to the period between the 16th and 18th cc., is of much importance. The outcomes of our study have shown that objective studying, primarily speaking of that in terms of chronicles and archival documents, as well as analysis of the content of the source-available information and involvement of the obtained outcomes in the academic circulation, have made it possible to achieve a higher level in the perception of a lot of new aspects of the socio-political processes, which took place in Ukraine during its Cossack-Hetmanic historical period, and of Ukraine’s relations with the Ottoman Empire. Implementation of studies-oriented tasks on the base of the concept of and application of source-studying methods put forward by the above said scholar Omelian Pritsak, has enabled us to maximally objectively interpret a set of facts having been so far kept silenced in the Ukrainian national history, and to more clearly define the role and place of the Cossack Ukraine in the World History as well as Ukraine’s relations with the Sublime Porte.

References


