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About the words äje and ekeš in Kazakh

Kazakça Äje ve Ekeş Sözcükleri Hakkında

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Kazakh, which is among the modern Turkic dialects of today's Kipchak group, is a very rich contemporary dialect in terms of vocabulary. Its vocabulary generally consists of words of Turkic origin. However, in addition to these words, words from different languages are also included in the vocabulary of Kazakh. In this study, the words of Mongolian origin äje and ekeš, which are seen in the vocabulary of Kazakh, will be examined. While examining these words, information will be given about their use in historical Turkic dialects and modern Turkic dialects, as well as their use in Mongolian. In addition, explanations about the origin of the words will be included.

Key Words: Kazakh, Mongolian, vocabulary, loanwords, analysis.

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1. Introduction

Kazakh is among the modern Turkic dialects of the Kipchak group. It is a very rich Turkic dialect in terms of vocabulary. Although its vocabulary is generally composed of words of Turkic origin, its vocabulary also includes words quoted from other languages. The most striking words among these quoted words are words of Mongolian origin. Words of Mongolian origin in Kazakh are mostly reflected in the vocabulary of Kazakh through the historical dialects of Turkic.

When we look at the Mongolian words in the historical dialects of Turkic: according to Clauson, there are no words of Mongolian origin in Old Turkic. Until the 13th century, quotation was one-way, from Turkic to Mongolian. If there are words common to Turkic and Mongolian in Old Turkic works, they are of Turkic origin or quotation from Turkic. If the word does not appear in Old Turkic works, it is considered a Mongolian loanword (Clauson 1959: 177).

Şçerbak, divides the Turkic-Mongolian language relations into two periods: the 12th century and earlier and the 12th-14th centuries. He states that there are no written sources of Mongolian in the 12th century and earlier, and that there are very few Mongolian words in Old Turkic works of this period. He mentions that Mongolian loanwords in Turkic mainly started to appear in Old Uyghur works of the 13th and 14th centuries (Şçerbak 2019: 35).

The words of Mongolian origin quote into Kazakh have also occurred in a different way, apart from the historical dialects of Turkic. This path is derived from the close contact of the Kazakhs with the Mongols. This quotation is a result of the existence of some Mongolian-origin *juz* (such as Calayır, Kereyit, Nayman) among today's Kazakh *juz* (Poppe 1991: 152).

2. On the Kazakh Words *äje* and *ekeş*

In this study, the words *äje* and *ekeş* seen in the Kazakh vocabulary are discussed. The reason for examining these words is to prove the existence of Mongolian loanwords in Old Turkic texts (DLT) and to provide information about their areas of use in Kazakh. In addition, Mongolian origin words seen in Kazakh vocabulary have phonetic differences compared to Turkic origin words. For example, Mongolian word *ece(n)* has transformed into *äje* word in Kazakh. In

Kazakh, *c > j* change in the middle of a word occurs only in Mongolian loanwords. The word *ekeş* has been reflected in Kazakh vocabulary through historical Turkic dialects. While examining these words, detailed information is given about their forms in historical Turkic dialects and modern Turkic dialects as well as their forms and meanings seen in Mongolian. In addition, explanations about the origin of the words are included.

äje “grandmother; old woman” (Koç 2003: 62; Smagulov 2013: 38; Isakov 2011/II: 373), *äje* “grandmother; old man” (Shnitnikov 1966: 297), *äje* “mother” (Aytbayulı 2007: 106; Kaliyev 2005: 97), *eje* “paternal aunt; maternal aunt” (Smagulov 2013: 82), *äjey* “word used to express respect to older women”, *äjeke* “word used to express respect to older men” (Isakov 2011/II: 373).

The word appears in historical dialects of Turkic. It is encountered for the first time in DLT as *eçe* “older sister, eke; /ç/ consonant is translated from /k/” (Kaçalın 2019: 163). Clauson also stated that the word is seen in DLT as *eçi* “old man or woman”, but he evaluated the word as hap. leg. (hapax legomenon), that is, as a single-instance word (Clauson 1972: 20). Among the Chagatay works, in AL it is *eçi* “honorable woman” (Kaçalın 2011: 927) and in LÇT it is *eçi* “mother” (Ünlü 2013: 320). In the TS, *ece* “chief, great, prominent; *Bir sualırm var ey dervişler ecesi / Meşayih ne buyurur yol haberi nicesi* (Yunus Emre)” is seen as (TS III: 1384). In modern Turkic dialects; Kyrgyz *ece* “a lady who is relatively older than a younger lady (wife); elder sister” (Yudahin 1998: 320), Bashkir *ese* “mother” (Özşahin 2017: 145). In the DS, *ece* “old man with a beard; grandmother; beautiful woman”, *eci* “a woman worthy of respect; grandmother” (DS III: 1659; 1661).

The word is in Middle Mongolian, SH *ecen* “owner, master, chief, God” (Haenisch 1939: 41; Tuna 1972: 225), ME *eçe* “maternal aunt” (Poppe 1938: 436), *ecin* “father's sister, paternal aunt” (Kara 1990: 293). In literary Mongolian, *ece(n)* “owner, lord, manager”, *ecey* “term of endearment used when addressing small children and old women” (Lessing 1960: 335; 336), *ecan* “husband, wife” (Iwamura 1961: 103). In modern Mongolian, Kalmyk *ezn* “lord, ruler, owner” (Ramstedt 1935: 129), Buryat *ejen* “householder, master” (Cheremisov 1951: 725), Dagur *ecin* “owner, householder; husband” (Martin 1961: 142), Ordos *eDžin* “owner, householder, master” (Mostaert 1968: 230).

Clauson and Şçerbak state that there are very few words of Mongolian origin in Old Turkic, and that the word transfer in this period was from Turkic to Mongolian. He states that until the 13th century, quoting was one-sided, and after this century, Mongolian words were quoted into Turkic (Clauson 1959: 177; Şçerbak 2019: 35). However, it has been proven by various studies that some words taken from Mongolian or other languages, although very few, are seen in Old Turkic (DLT) works. Sertkaya states that the word *eke* (*eçe*) seen in DLT is a loanword from the Mongolian word *egeci* (Sertkaya 2009: 24). Gülensoy, on the other hand, evaluates these two words as the product of the basic vocabulary of Turkic and Mongolian (Gülensoy 1984: 93). Clauson evaluated the word *eçi* seen in DLT as a single-use data (hapax legomenon) (1972: 20). The word *ece(n)* in Mongolian is the Mongolian equivalent of the word *édi* (*idi*) “householder; husband” seen in Old Turkic. In short, these two words are among the common basic words for Turkic and Mongolian. This word is also seen in Evenki and Tungus languages apart from Mongolian and Turkic: *edī* “husband, wife” (EDAL: 493-494). However, the word is borrowed from Mongolian, with the form *äje* seen in Kazakh. In Kazakh, the sound changes *c > j* is seen more in words of Turkic origin and at the beginning of a word. This change in the middle of a word is evidence that the word is not of Turkic origin but quoted from a different language¹. In fact, the word is seen in the form *ejen* in the Buryat language, one of the modern Mongolian dialects. There are two possibilities about the word; Firstly, it underwent a sound change (*c > j*) when it was transferred to Kazakh, and secondly, it was quoted from a Mongolian dialect without any sound change. See also (Rybatzki 2006: 18-19; Schönig 2000: 93; Şçerbak 2019: 112; TMEN 1963-1975/II: 15; Tuna 1972: 224-225; Räsänen 1969: 35).

ekeş “young girl; word used to pamper young girls”, *eke* “sister; daughter” (Smagulov 2013: 82).

The word is seen in Old Uyghur as *äkä* “older sister; elder sister; motherhood”, *äkäç* (< Mog. *egeçi*) “female” (Wilkens 2021: 102; Caferoğlu 1968: 70), and in DLT as *ekeç* “a little girl who exhibits intelligent behavior and makes everyone love her like a sister. This word is said for a girl as a sign of love”

¹ Apart from the word *äje* in Kazakh, there are other words of Mongolian origin that are examples of the change *c > j*: such as Mongolian *kence* > Kazakh *kenje* (Lessing 2003: 724).

(Kaçalin 2019: 166). In Khwarezm Turkic *ékeçi* “father’s sister” (Ünlü 2012: 166), in Chagatay AL *égeçi*, *ekeçi* “older sister; elder sister” (Kaçalin 2011: 927; Ünlü 2013: 328), in DTO, ML, TEH and LÇT *igeçi* “older sister; elder sister” (Pavet de Courteille 1870: 28; 119; Özönder 1996: 54; Abik 1993: 284; Şeyh Süleymān Efendi 1298: 17; Ünlü 2013: 511), in Kipchak TZ *eke* “aunt” (Atalay 1945: 167), in CC and TA *egeçi* “older sister; elder sister” (Grønbech 1942: 84; Toparlı 2000: 104). Among the modern Turkic dialects, Khakas *igeçi* “sister” (Baskakov 1953: 55), Uzbek *egāçi* “elder sister”, and Uyghur *agiça* “maternal aunt; older sister” (Özönder 1996: 54). In *Opit Slovary Tyurskikh Nareçiy*, *ekeçe* “older sister” (Radloff 1893-1911/I: 697). In *Sravnitel’ny Slovar’ Turetsko-Tatarskikh Nareçiy*, *ekeçi* “older sister” (Budagov 1869-1871/I: 201). In the DS *eci*, *egeç*, *egeçi* “older sister” (DS V: 1672).

The word is from Middle Mongolian, SH *egeci* “older sister; elder sister” (Haenisch 1939: 42), ME *egeçi* “older sister” (Poppe 1938: 151), *ekeçi* “older sister; elder sister” (Kara 1990: 293). In literary Mongolian, *egeçi* “older sister” (Lessing 1960: 297; Kowalewski 1844/I: 234). In modern Mongolian, Kalmyk *ectši* “elder sister” (Ramstedt 1935: 118), Buryat *egeci* “elder sister” (Çeremisov 1951: 722), Dagur *egeci* “older sister; elder sister” (Martin 1961: 142), Halha *egç* “elder sister” (Sanjeyev 2015: 207).

The word *egeçi* is a word of Mongolian origin. The word is formed by adding the suffix *-çi* to the word *ege* (*eke*) “sister, older woman” (Ramstedt 1935: 118). The word *egeçi* is a word borrowed from Mongolian since the Middle Turkic period. It is seen in historical periods of Turkic such as Chagatay and Kipchak. However, in Old Uyghur and DLT, words such as *eke* and *ekeç* are seen. These words also originate from Mongolian. In fact, Wilkens states that the word *ekeç* seen in Old Uyghur is a quoted from the Mongolian word *egeçi* (Wilkens 2021: 102; Sertkaya 2009: 24). Kincses-Nagy also states that the words *eke*, *ekeç* seen in Old Turkic are older quoted of Mongolian origin, while he evaluates the word *egeçi* as a more recent quoted from Mongolian in the Middle Turkic period. In other words, it indicates that both words are of Mongolian origin, but their citation periods are different from each other (Kincses-Nagy 2018: 104-105). See also (Clauson 1972: 102; EDAL: 500; Özönder 1996: 54; TMEN 1963-1975/I: 67; Räsänen 1969: 38).

3. Conclusion

The words examined here are present in the vocabulary of Kazakh today. The words were borrowed into Kazakh through historical Turkic dialects and through the Mongolian dialects of Kazakh. The word *ekeş* was mostly transferred into Kazakh through historical Turkic dialects (DLT *ekeş*, Chagatay *ekeçi*), while the word *äje* was borrowed through Mongolian dialects. In addition, when words were borrowed into Kazakh, they were shaped according to the phonetic structure of Kazakh; Mog. *ece* > Kzk. *äje/eje*, Mog. *egeçi* > Kzk. *ekeş*. The word *ekeş* in Kazakh is not among the frequently used words in daily life in Kazakh today. It is mostly among the words used in dialects. The word *Äje* is among the frequently used words in daily life in Kazakh.

Abbreviations

AL = Kaçalın 2011.

CC = Grønbech 1942.

DLT = Kaçalın 2019.

DS = Derleme Sözlüğü 2009.

DTO = Pavet de Corturteille 1870.

EDAL = Starostin 2003.

ME = Poppe 1938.

ML = Özönder 1996.

SH = Haenisch 1939.

TA = Toparlı 2000.

TEH = Abik 1993.

TMEN = Doerfer 1963-1975.

TS = Tarama Sözlüğü 1995-1996.

TZ = Atalay 1945.

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