



WORDS OF HUNGARIAN ORIGIN IN THE TURKISH DICTIONARY

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Abstract

Hungarian and the Turkic languages share a long and rich history, but the scholarly research of this linguistic relation mostly focused on the effect that the Turkic languages had on Hungarian, and the other side of the connection has been largely ignored so far.. The aim of this study is to examine all words of Hungarian origin in the Turkish Linguistic Society's official Turkish Dictionary, in all eleven editions of it, and provide an in depth analysis of them.

Keywords: Turkic-Hungarian language relation, Etymology, Turkish Dictionary

Introduction

Hungarian and the Turkic languages share a long and deeply intertwined history. Turkic languages had a considerable effect on Hungarian, observable even today. On the other hand Hungarian only managed to leave a passing imprint upon them. Even though it would only be proper to conduct a decent research with the aim of finding out the exact results of said effect such a research has not been conducted yet according to my knowledge. This article aims to fill the hole in some sense.

The Turkish Linguistic Society (TDK) has been responsible for producing the Turkish Dictionary ever since 1945, now said dictionary is on it's eleventh edition. Throughout the editions an increasing number of word with Hungarian origins have entered into its collection. Surprisingly, there are 19 words of Hungarian origin in it. Most of these are not in regular use today. In this study I am going to systematically examine every element of this small corpus.

The number of words in the Turkish Dictionary has been steadily increasing throughout the different editions. Starting from twelve in the first edition in 1945, out of which only three were actually identified as of Hungarian origin, reaching nineteen in the latest eleventh edition published in 2011, out of which eighteen are recognized as Hungarian.

While the Turkish Dictionary gives the donor language of each word, it is decidedly not an etymological dictionary. Contrary to this in many instances we can see several instances where the writers of the dictionary produce the simplified etymological route of words. Throughout the years these nineteen words has been identified with quite the array of different etymologies.

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	1945	1955	1959	1966	1969	1974	1983	1988	1998	2005	2011	online
cardaş								Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
çasar	n/a	Hun.	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun. < Lat	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
Çigan							Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
forint								Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
gulaş								Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
kadana				Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
koçu	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
kopça	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
kopoy	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
palanka	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
palaska	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	n/a	Hun.<Sla.	Hun.<Sla.	Sla.	Hun.	Hun.
palyoş	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Ita.>Tur.	n/a	Ita.+Tur.	Ita.+Tur.	Hun.	Hun.
penes		Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
pengö		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
salaş	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Bul.	Hun.
soba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
şarmpol	Hun.	Deu.	Hun. < Deu.	Hun. < Deu.	Hun. < Deu.	Hun. < Deu.	Hun.	Hun. < Deu.	Hun.	Bul.	Hun.	Hun.
şayka	Rus.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.
varoş	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.	Hun.

Figure 1.: Etymologies of Hungarian words in the Turkish Dictionary as shown in different editions.

The relationship of the Turkic languages and Hungarian

The Turkic-Hungarian relations go a long way back in history. The Hungarian language, during its history has been in contact with a plethora of different Turkic languages, and these had a considerable effect on it. Ever since the Middle Ages scholars have realized that there is a substantial connection between these languages. Systematic scholarly endeavours have been made to identify the Turkic loanword in Hungarian ever since the 18th century, and such researches still go on to this day. A great number of distinguished scholars have worked on this field so far, and many works of great scientific importance have seen the light of day (Róna-Tas 2011: 3—11).

It should be noted that in the research of the relation between Hungarian and the Turkic languages very little attention, if any, has been paid on the possible effects Hungarian might have had on the Turkic languages. For instance during the Ottoman rule in Hungary, words of Hungarian origin were frequently used by Ottoman bureaucrats in their reports, defters and the like. These words according to my knowledge has not yet been evaluated linguistically. The archivist Lajos Fekete has collected a larger corpus of them in his book titled *Die Siyaqat Schrift in der Türkischen Finanzverwaltung*. But his interest did not go past collection.

Even though the effect of Hungarian languages is not a well-researched topic, some works discussing the relationship of these languages mention it in passing. The earliest example I could find was in Ármin Vámbéry infamous work about Tatar-Turkish words in Hungarian, where he mentions in a footnote the Hungarian words found in late Ottoman Turkish:

“A töröknek újabbkori nyelvében a magyarból átvett szók legismeretesbei ezek : koc=kocsi, varus=város, hajdut=hajdu, sorompov=sorompó, kepenek=köpönyeg, hintov=hintó, kopja=kopja, sallas=szín hajlék és a magyar török korszakbeli történetírók által használt magyar szók, melyek azonban mainap ismeretlenek.” (Vámbéry 1870: 189)

Vámbéry's assessment is not flawless. It should be remembered that this was the article, which started the so-called Ugric-Turkic war of the Hungarian academia. Nonetheless it serves a valuable asset to the current research.

In the following pages I am going to present the nineteen words of Hungarian origin that can currently be found in the Turkish Dictionary. One thing important to note is that due to the size of the corpus no overarching principles could be determined phonetically, morphologically, semantically or otherwise.

cardaş ‘chardash’ < *csárdás* ‘chardash’; derived from hun. *csárda* ‘a small bar or pub in a desolate place’ with the addition of the –s adjective-forming suffix. *Csárda* itself is a wanderwort that got into many Eastern-European languages through Ottoman Turkish ota. *çārdaq* ‘balcony’ its final source is the Persian fas. *çārtāq* ‘terrace on four columns’ (Benkő 1992—1993: 191—192 and Benkő

1967:482). *Csárdás* acquired its current meaning, a type of folk dance, in the 19th century. The word is still in use in contemporary Hungarian.

çasar ‘emperor of the Holy Roman Empire’ < *császár* ‘emperor’; a loanword in Hungarian of Slavic origin, compare with: chu. *čěsař* ‘king’, sbcr. *cesar* ‘emperor’, orv. *чесарь* ‘emperor’, ces. *císar* ‘emperor’, its final origin is the name of Julius Caesar (Benkő 1992—1993: 192). Titulature in formal correspondence was an issue of grave importance. For the Ottomans the highest possible rank was *padişah* which they generally only used for their own ruler, however exceptions did occur, notably the king of France and even the Holy Roman Emperor was referred to as such on rare occasions. But generally a more demeaning title was inferred onto him, such as the king of Wien. Addressing him as *çasar* however was convenient for both sides, by using a foreign word they did not necessarily acknowledge equality between the Holy Roman Emperor and the Ottoman Sultan while at the same time they also avoided offending him. In the 19th century diplomatic relations became more formalized and the Ottomans adapted the practice of referring to foreign emperors as *imperator*.

Çigan ‘Gypsy’ < *Cigány* ‘Gypsy’; Southern Slavic loanword in Hungarian, possibly through Romanian mediation (ron. *țigân*) compare with: bul. *цѣганин*, sbcr. *Cigan*, slov. *cigan*. The source of the South Slavic words is the gr.(byz.) *Τσιγγάνοζ*. Its final source is unknown (Benkő 1992—1993:167). The Turkish Dictionary also contains the expression *Çigan müziği* ‘romani music’. Gypsy or Romani music is a quite popular genre in Eastern-Europe and the Balkan region, it seem likely that that’s the reason why the word got into Turkish in the first place.

forint ‘forint’ < forint ‘forint’; wanderwort found in many European languages compare with: deu. *flōrīn*, *flōrēn*, nld. *florijn*, fra. *florin*, rus. *флорин*, ota. *filuri*. It’s final source is the it. *fiorino* ‘small flower’ which was the name of a type of golden coin minted in Firenze. (Benkő 1992—1993: 411 and Benkő 1967: 953). Forint is the current official currency of Hungary .

gulaş ‘goulash’ < *gulyás* ‘goulash’ Originates from the expressions *gulyásleves* ‘goulache soup’, *gulyáshús* ‘goulash meat’, *gulyásétel* ‘goulash food’ with the first stem of the compound becoming independent. The word *gulya* itself means a group of bovines, its etymology is uncertain, although it has been proposed to be of Caucasian origin. (Benkő 1992—1993: 483—484) The form *gulyás* is created with the use of the –s adjective-forming suffix. The word *gulyás* has been adapted into a large number of other European languages as well, deu. *Gulasch*, eng. *goulash*, fra. *goulache*. In Turkey this word has a very well known folk etymology being made up of the word *kul* ‘slave’ and *aş* ‘food’. This has been debunked.

katana ‘large horse’ < *katona* ‘soldier’; a loanword from it. *cattano* ‘vassal with lesser power’ it’s final source is the lat. *capitaneus* ‘large, chief in size’ (Benkő 1992—1993: 712). The semantical change probably occurred due to large horses being used in the field by the military giving basis for such an association.

koçu ‘1. carriage 2. granary built on poles’ < *kocsi* ‘car, cart, carriage’; derived from the name of the village of Kocs with the addition of the –i adjective suffix. Kocs was famous for its cartwrights who produced carts with a special suspension, the word *kocsi* literally meaning ‘of Kocs’ originally meant these carts, but it later won a more general meaning. It is interesting that in contemporary Turkish, although rarely used, the word only applied for covered and ornamented carriages, for which the Hungarian word is *hintó*, that has also made it into Ottoman Turkish, but later faded from usage.

kopça (buckle) < *kapocs* ‘buckle’, derived from the verb *kapcsol-* ‘connect’ which itself comes from the verb *kap-* (Benkő 1992—1993: 688).

kopoy ‘hound’ < *kopó* ‘hound’; derived from the verb *kap-* ‘recieve’ with the addition of the –ó present participle suffix. The ‘y’ at the end of the word seems curious. While I could not find any written instance of the word in a primary source, *Kamus-i Turki* gives it as *qopoy* (Sami 2014 :844). As it can be seen with the examples bellow, transcribing Hungarian words with an ‘ó’ ending was not problematic for Ottomans. One exception is *bíró* with a double waw at the end, most likely spelled as ‘birov’ and *pantalló* ending with a yod, probably because it was interpreted as possessing the adjective forming suffix –li. As such one would expect a form like *kopo* or *kopov*.

Hungarian	Ottoman Turkish	English
akó	آقو	unit of capacity measurement around 54-58 litres in Hungary
bíró	برو/ بیرو/ بیروو	judge
posztó	پاستاو/ پاستو/ پستو	baize
pantalló	پانتولی	pantaloon
csapó	چاپو	cracker
csavargó	چوارغو	vagrant
hintó	هنتو/ حنطو	carriage
zsidó	ژیدو	jew
cipó	سپو	a small round loaf of bread
sorompó	شارامپا/ شارانیو/ شارنیو	boom barrier
szabó	صابو	tailor

Figure 2.: Hungarian words ending with 'ó' in Ottoman Turkish.

palanka 'wooden fortification' < palánk 'wooden plank'; loanword from deu. *planke*, *plank* 'wide board, bar', *plancken* 'palisade' (Benkő 1992—1993: 1101). Adopted into Ottoman Turkish from the compound word *palánkvár* 'palisade', which was a type of fortification commonly deployed both by Hungarians and Ottomans in their long wars.

palaska 'cartridge belt' < palack 'bottle' loanword from a Slavic language, compare with: sbcr. *ploska* 'bottle', slk. *plosok* 'hip flask' and ukr. *плоска* (Benkő 1992—1993: 1100). It can be deduced from the change in the semantical field that this word was adapted into Turkish during the Ottoman occupation of Hungary.

palyoş 'broadsword' < pallos 'broadsword'; derived from the ota. *pala* 'scimitar' with the addition of the -s adjective suffix (Benkő 1992—1993: 1104). Thought to be a wanderwort for a long time, compare with: deu. Pallasch, ita. paloscio, bul. *налеу*, pol. palasz (Benkő 1970: 73). The ninth and tenth editions of the Turkish Dictionary gives an alternative etymology, a compound word made up of the it. *pala* 'blade' and the tur. *şiş* 'skewer'. Since the object in question is a broadsword this etymology seems somewhat forced.

penes 'coins used as ornament on traditional dresses' < pénz 'money'; loanword from a Slavic language compare with: chu. *pěnezь* 'coinage', sbcr. *pjěněz*, *penez*, *pinez* 'coin', slk. *peniaz* 'coin', rus. *пéнязь* 'coin, change'; the final source of it is the deu. *pfennig* 'penny' (Benkő 1992—1993: 1142). In several editions of the Turkish Dictionary where the original form of the loanword is shown it is erroneously claimed to be derived from the word *penész* 'mold'. If it were a more recent loan this would make sense phonetically. In the Ottoman times *péńz* was one of the words commonly used by the Ottomans, and it was written in several different ways including as *penes*.

pengö ‘pengő’ < pengő ‘pengő’; derived from the verb peng- ‘clink’ with the addition of the present participle suffix –ő, literally meaning clinker. Originally it was used as *pengő forint* meaning silver coin, later it became an independent word. Between 1927-1946 it came to denote the official currency of Hungary. In several editions of the Turkish Dictionary where the original form is given it is written with an ‘ö’, while instead it should be written with an ‘ó’.

salas ‘market stall’ < szállás ‘lodgement’; derived from the verb *száll-* ‘fly’ with the –ás/és noun suffix (Benkő 1992—1993: 1387).

soba ‘stove’ < szoba ‘room’; a wanderwort compare with: lat. *stuba* ‘room, chamber’, deu. *stuba*, *stupa* ‘bathroom, a heated room’, ita. *stufa* ‘heater’, rus. *установка* ‘bathroom, house’ (Benkő 1992—1993: 1444). It is unknown from which language was it adapted to Hungarian. As it can also be found in many languages spoken on the Balkans its quite possible that it did not get into Turkish by way of Hungarian.

sarampol ‘stockade’ < sorompó ‘boom barrier’; loanword from the deu. *schrancpaum* (Benkő 1992—1993: 1346) .

şayka ‘saic’ < csajak ‘saic’; a wanderwort, compare with: bul. *ачука*, socr. *šajka*, pol. *czajka*, ita. *sàica*, *saicca*, *saico*, ron. *saică* all of them with roughly the same meaning, a type of light and fast ship. The final origin of the word could be the lat. *sagittal* ‘arrow’, but it is disputed (Benkő 1992—1993: 1297). It is questionable if the word actually entered Ottoman Turkish from Hungarian, as the usage of such ships was not common in Hungary.

varoş ‘slum’ < város ‘town, city’; derivative from hun. *vár* ‘castle’ with the addition of the –s adjective suffix, *váras* literally a place with a castle, by becoming a noun in usage the ‘a’ in the second syllable turned into an ‘o’, a common phenomenon in Hungarian. (Benkő 1976:1093—1094) The Trukish Dictionary consistently gives its meaning as „Kent veya kasabada dış mahalle” even though it is generally used in a more negative sense, basically meaning ghetto or slum. *Varoş* was one of those words which the ottomans frequently used during their occupation of the Kingdom of Hungary. Hungarian cities were regularly referred to as *varoş* even in the official administration.

Conclusion

The nineteen words of Hungarian origin in the Turkish Dictionary as we have seen

Out of these nineteen words only a few have actually become integral to the Turkish language for example *kopca*, which itself gained several local derivatives. The others constitute a relatively obscure part of the vocabulary, they are rarely used by the regular native speakers, and mostly only specialist know about them. In some cases I would even go as far as to say that their inclusion in the Turkish Dictionary is unnecessary.

The best continuation of this line of research would be an in depth examination of the Hungarian words used during the Ottoman times. Even though, the situation was somewhat similar, as the words were only used by a small group for a cooperatively short amount of time, the corpus itself is way bigger compromising nearly a hundred words. Such a number seems sufficient for an in depth analysis.

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