



SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE CONDUCTED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE AND MORPHEMIC SYSTEM OF TURKISH LANGUAGES AND THEIR SERVICES

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ABSTRACT

This article provides valuable information about scientists who conducted scientific research on the grammatical structure and morphemic system of Turkic languages. It also discusses the theory of agglutination and the formation of the morphological structure and morphemic system Turkic languages. In particular, the article highlights the main features of the morphology of Turkic languages and their impact on grammatical analysis.

KEYWORDS

A.N.Kononov, N.A.Baskakov, O.N.Byotling, V.V.Radlov, A.K.Borovkov agglutination theory, fuzion, Indo-Europen linguistics, Turkology, Uzbek language, word and morpheme, types of morpheme.

INTRODUCTION

Extensive research has been conducted on the morphological structure of the Turkic languages. In particular, A.N. Kononov, N.A. Baskakov, M.Z. Zakiyev, and a number of other scholars have produced important studies on the grammatical structure and morphemic system of Turkic languages. This article analyzes previous traditional research on Turkic languages and compares their results. The full formation of the comparative-historical method in Western linguistics—which laid the groundwork for the theory of agglutination—dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In the history of Turkology, during the nineteenth-twentieth centuries when the Russian Empire became the center of world Turkology, Russian Turkologists, while researching the morphology and morphonology of the Turkic languages, logically also focused on the processes and mechanisms of agglutination and their influence on the grammatical structure of particular Turkic languages. From this perspective, the views of O.N. Byotling and V.V. Radlov on the origins of morphemes in Turkic languages are noteworthy: they indicated that in Turkic languages only a limited number of suffixes trace back to independent words. As a result of nearly 150 years of scholarly observation, it was determined that in agglutinative languages—Turkic languages included—the morphemic structure, both the stem part and the affixal part, has been enriched through two leading methods: (1) agglutination; (2) fusion. By the 1920s-30s of the twentieth century, most Turkologists accepted that agglutination is the typological-genetic method for forming grammatical forms in the Turkic languages. In the agglutination process, the formation of words from other words or phrases—often through reduction—and the occasional transformation of a linguistic unit into an affix constitute a typological feature of the morphology of the Turkic languages; the idea that this process runs in parallel with language evolution and the gradual development of the

morphemic system has come to be regarded as no longer a matter of debate. Therefore, from the 1950s onward, within earlier Soviet Turkology, efforts began to describe the mechanism of the regularities of agglutination, the ways it occurs, and the forms in which it is manifested. One of the Turkologists who carried out the earliest studies on the mechanism of the agglutination law in the morphology of the Turkic languages was A. K. Borovkov. In his well-known article “Agglutination and Flexion in the Turkic Languages” (“Агглютинация и флексия в тюркских языках”), published in a volume dedicated to the memory of Acad. L. V. Shcherba, A. K. Borovkov acknowledges that the regularity of agglutination played an important role in the formation and development of the morphological structure of these languages [1]. In analyzing the process of agglutination in the Turkic languages, A. K. Borovkov relies on the purely morphological approaches substantiated by F. F. Fortunatov. It is well known that F. F. Fortunatov, who made a major contribution to the development of grammatical theory in Russian and Soviet linguistics in the twentieth century, was an adherent of F. Bopp’s “theory of agglutination” and, by developing this theory, worked actively to introduce it into European languages. The scholar’s definition of the word and the word-form as a chain of morphemes linked in sequence was accepted in linguistics as a new theory. This view of F. F. Fortunatov presupposes that the word—the basic universal unit of language—arises as the combination of morphemes of various types, and that each morpheme has a strictly defined place in the word or word-form. Consequently, the substitution of any given morpheme in the structure of a word or word-form leads not only to a change in the form of the word but also to a change in its semantics [2].

A. K. Borovkov took these rules—which are not very applicable to the Indo-European languages but are suited to the linguistic nature of the Turkic languages—as the basis for his views on word structure and on its morphological and morphemic formatives in the Turkic languages. He also emphasizes that affixes in the Turkic languages originally derived from meaningful words and are now found within compound words; in particular, although word stems have undergone various phonetic processes and thus certain phonemic changes, they carry the principal lexical and grammatical meaning of the word. At the same time, he notes that the fusion of the root/base and the affix in lexical-semantic harmony, as well as the fact that the boundaries between them do not completely disappear, is a very frequent phenomenon in the Turkic languages; and along with this, he stresses that diffusion phenomena contrary to this principle also exist in roots and affixes, which in some respects resembles the law of flexion. On this point he adduces many concrete examples and, criticizing the overstatement of the role of agglutination in the grammatical structure of the Turkic languages, also sets out opposing conclusions. Like Fortunatov, he holds that in the Turkic languages the root is an invariable linguistic unit, and that all diffusion (morphonological) processes and flexibility occur in the affixal part [3].

Just as F. F. Fortunatov in his time highly—indeed, excessively—emphasized the role of phonetic changes in word formation and in changes to a word’s morphemic composition in Indo-European languages [4], A. K. Borovkov likewise amplifies the results of phonemic changes in the internal structure of words in the Turkic languages.

Overall, although A. K. Borovkov—who initiated twentieth-century Turkological research on the theory of agglutination—advanced some mutually contradictory views on this issue, his

work nevertheless spurred later lively debate on this complex problem and prompted the emergence of in-depth studies in Russian Turkology.

One of the scholars who presented a clearer and better-grounded perspective on the nature of the agglutination regularity in the Turkic languages and on its mechanism of operation is, without doubt, Acad. A. N. Kononov. In his article “On the Nature of Turkic Agglutination” (“О природе тюркской агглютинации”), published in issue 4 of the journal *Voprosy Jazykoznanija* in 1976, he identifies the main ways in which Turkic affixal morphemes are formed.

Kononov—who earlier produced fundamental studies on the academic grammars of Turkic languages with well-developed literary traditions such as Uzbek and Turkish [5]—notes that the agglutination regularity in the Turkic languages had already been addressed in the nineteenth century by O. N. Byotlingk, V. V. Radlov, and Baudouin de Courtenay, and at the beginning of the twentieth century by A. N. Samoylovich, A. P. Potseluevsky, and G. J. Ramstedt; however, scholarly debate on this matter has not yet ended, and the agglutination mechanism—which played a major role in the linguistic nature of the Turkic languages and in the formation of their morphological structure—remains a topic requiring extensive study. He also points out that affixes, and the patterned ways in which they attach to roots, affect levels ranging from phonetics to syntax and lexis, not just the morphemics of the Turkic languages [6].

According to the scholar, the system of affixes in the Turkic languages takes shape through three methods: (1) the co-occurrence/stacking of affixes with the same meaning; (2) the merging of affixes with different meanings and functions; (3) the reconstitution (reanalysis) of a word’s constituent parts [7].

Such an approach shows that A. N. Kononov characterized the agglutination process as agglutinative flexion, noting, in particular, that with the help of specialized etymological analysis it is possible to identify or reconstruct the linguistic elements (word, syllable, phoneme, etc.) that underlie the formation of affixes. In this context, he also emphasizes the importance of the phenomenon of grammaticalization, which is widespread in the Turkic languages. For example, if one looks closely at certain affixes in the Turkic languages—especially word-forming affixes—both from the standpoint of each affix’s semantics (its literal meaning) and from the standpoint of its function within the paradigmatic series alongside other affixes, one can perceive their heterogeneity. In Uzbek, for instance, the present-tense marker *-yap* is characterized by complete grammaticalization through the phonetic reduction (simplification) and semantic bleaching of the verb *yotib* (“lying”), while at the same time retaining traces of its original, concrete meaning. In general, the tense forms of the verb in the Turkic languages have preserved, to a certain degree, a semantic connection with the earlier independent word from which they developed. [8]

A. N. Baskakov made a special contribution to articulating the essence of the agglutination mechanism present in the morphology and morphemics of the Turkic languages. He was among the first to acknowledge that studying issues of Turkic morphology and morphemics within the traditions of Indo-European languages—specifically, Russian grammar—is unpromising and even mistaken. In one of his articles written in 1969, the scholar noted: “In coming to understand the distinctive features of the structure of the Turkic languages, we owe much to the Russian and Soviet school of Turkic grammarians—Ilminsky, Melioransky, Samoylovich, Gordlevsky, Dmitriev—who in their grammatical studies revealed and demonstrated the

essence and nature of the Turkic languages. They presented many phenomena of Turkic grammar by comparing them with the corresponding phenomena of Indo-European and, in particular, Russian grammar." [9] Continuing the traditions of his teachers, the scholar further points out that it is now time for comparative research to illuminate the agglutination mechanism in the Turkic languages. [10] Indeed, he observes that contemporary Turkology has achieved substantial progress in understanding the nature of various phenomena in the phonological, grammatical, and lexical composition of these languages. In fact, during the last century Russian Turkology carried out a very large volume of research on the Turkic languages both within the former Soviet Union and abroad (Turkey, the PRC, etc.), and amassed factual language material. Therefore, in his view, more fully revealing the typological features of the languages belonging to a given group can serve as a key to clarifying certain general issues in linguistics—such as the relationship between linguistic categories and thought, the origin of language, and the identification of typological universals common to languages.

From the research of these linguists the following conclusion can be drawn: to determine the mechanisms by which the morphological and morphemic systems characteristic of the Turkic languages operate—including the linguistic algorithm and configuration of the agglutination mechanism—it is necessary to clarify notions and conceptions concerning the general, ideal form of the morphological and morphemic patterns specific to these languages.

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