



NOTES ON SOME ALTAIC HOUSEHOLD WORDS

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Abstract

This paper discusses several household words in the Altaic languages meaning 'hollow'. The paper takes the Turkic forms as basic and compares them with related forms in Mongolian, Tungus-Manchu, Korean and Japanese.

The lexicon addressed in the paper mainly includes words such as *kemeke* 'stove, stove hole'; *kentük* 'large earthenware jar for storing flour'; *könek* 'bucket, vessel, sack'; *kumbara* 'small earthenware or metal vessel'. The goal of this paper is to propose a number of etymologies for these words.

Key Words: Turkish, Mongolian, Tungus-Manchu, Korean, Japanese, Altaic languages, etymology.

ALTAY DİLLERİNDEKİ BAZI EV GEREÇ ADLARI ÜZERİNE

Özet

Bu makalede Altay dillerinde 'oyuk' anlamını taşıyan bazı ev gereç adları üzerinde durulacaktır. Türkçe biçimler Moğolca, Mançu-Tunguzca, Korece ve Japoncadaki uygun şekillerle karşılaştırılmaktadır.

Makalede esas olarak *kemeke* 'soba, soba deliği', *kentük* 'un saklanan büyük toprak kap', *könek* 'kova; çuval' ve *kumbara* 'küçük toprak veya metal kap' kelimeleri ele alınmaktadır ve bu biçimlerin etimolojisi açıklanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkçe, Moğolca, Mançu-Tunguzca, Korece, Altay dilleri, etimoloji.

This paper discusses several household words in the Altaic languages meaning 'hollow'. I propose a number of etymologies for these words. The paper takes the Turkic forms as basic and compares them with related forms in Mongolian, Tungus-Manchu, Korean and Japanese.

The lexicon addressed in the paper mainly includes words such as *kemeke*, *kentük*, *könek* and *kumbara*.

(1) KEMEKE 'stove, stove hole'. Chuvash *kāmaka*; Altai *kämägä*; Khakassian *kimege*; Shor *kebege*; Oyrat *kemege*; Kirghiz *kemege* (Räsänen, 1969: 250; Levitskaja, 1997:

35-36; Fedotov, 1996: I. 251). Starostin compares Turkic *kemeke* with Japanese *kama* 'stove' and Korean *kama* cauldron (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07). Old Japanese *kama*, *kama-dwo*; Middle Japanese *kámá*; Tokyo *kâma*, *kamado*; Kyoto *kámá*; Kagoshima *kâma* meaning 'stove; kettle' (Martin, 1987: 435) and Middle Korean *kámá*; Modern Korean *kama* meaning 'stove; furnace; cauldron'. In Korean there are various usages of the word *kama*. It may mean 'bag; sack' and can also be used as 'palanquin; sedan chair' (Phyojungugodesajon, 1999: I. 31). It is necessary to note that the last meaning of the Korean word *kama* is also attested in Chuvash *küme* ~ *kümme* 'palanquin; sedan chair for children'; in Tatar and in Bashkir *kəymə* 'palanquin; sedan chair' (Fedotov, 1996: I. 321-322); in Tatar dialect *кyme* 'stroller'; in Kazakh and in Noghai *кyjmə* 'palanquin' (Levitskaja, 1997: 36).

I believe that all the semantic fields of the words *kemeke* and *kama* may be developed from 'hollow' (**keme*, **küme*). There are other examples: in Evenki *kemeke* 'vulva' (Tsintsius, 1975: I. 448); in Middle Korean *küme* 'hollow' (Phyojungugodesajon, I. 651); in some dialects of Turkish *küme* 'hut for hunters' (Acıpayamli, 1976:129).

On the basis of the above analysis, we can hypothesis that the word *kemeke* may have derived from the combination of the word *кeme* 'hollow' and *-ke* diminutive morpheme thus giving the meaning 'a small hollow where fire is made'.

(2) KENTÜK 'large earthenware jar for storing flour'. In Turkic, there are various usages of the word *kentük*. Karakhanid *kendük* 'large earthenware jar' (Kashgariy, 1963: I. 444); Middle Turkic *kündük* 'water bottle; jug' (Clauson, 1972: 729); Uzbek *kandik* 'box for flour, grain' (Akobirov, 1988: 199); in Tashkent dialect of Uzbek *kəndu* 'big box for storing grain', in Farish dialect of Uzbek *kənduk* 'shelf' (Shoabdurahmonov, 1971: 141); Azerbaidzhan *kändi* 'bin, crib for flour, grain'; Halaj *kändi* 'basket'; Kirghiz *kendik* 'room for grain, fuel'; Chuvash *kandi* 'round wooden bowl' (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07), *kuntä*~*kontä*~*kuntäk*~*kontäk* 'hand basket' (Fedotov, 1996: I. 307); and in Başkışla dialect of Turkish *güdük* (< *gündük*) 'earthenware jar' (Acıpayamli, 1976: 87).

The Etymological Dictionary of the Altaic Languages proposes Proto-Turkic **kendük* (**kentük*) as 1. 'large earthenware jar for storing flour'; 2. 'bin, crib for flour, grain'; Proto-Mongolian **kundaga* as 'a small vessel'; Proto-Tungus-Manchu **kondi* as 'scoop, box'; Proto-Japanese **küntá* 'pipe' from which is the reconstructed Proto-Altaic form of the word **kiántú* as 'a k. of vessel' (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07). Besides, the Middle Korean word *kun-tjökói* with the meaning of 'basket' (Phyojungugodesajon, I. 710) may belong to this group.

Clauson (1972: 729) states that the word *kendük* is one of the Gancak words which is unquestionably Iranian. Cf. Persian *kandū*, Middle Persian *kandük* 'a large clay vessel for storing grain' (also see Абаев 4. 173).

Taking into consideration the fact that Japanese *küntá* has the meaning 'pipe', it can be compared to the Uzbek dialectal words: *kən* 'pipe'; *kəndə* 'gutter' (Shoabdurahmonov ed. 1971: 141), *kən* 'chimney' (Muhamadjonov, 1981: 107).

These examples demonstrate that Turkic *kentük* 'large earthenware jar for storing flour'; 'bin, crib for flour, grain'; Mongolian *kundaga* 'a small vessel'; Tungus-Manchu *kondi* 'scoop, box'; Korean *kun-tjökói* 'basket'; Japanese *küntá* 'pipe' may have developed from the common Altaic word < /kiàn / 'hole, hollow'.

The next important question is determining the second element /*tük*/ in the word *kentük*. I believe that the second element /*tük*/ of the compound *kentük* in the Altaic period expressed the meaning ‘earthenware’. Compare, for instance, the following attestations: in Korean the word *tok* (<*tòk*) means ‘earthenware pot for storing soy sauce, rice wine, kimchi et al.’ (Phyojungugodesajon I. 1592). Moreover, Kashgariy (1963: III. 155) explained that the Turkic word *toj* means ‘earthenware’. There are analogues: Evenki *tāksa*, Even *tāk*, Negidal *tāksa*, Udighe *takeæ*, Ulcha *toaqsä*, Orok *tōqso*, Nanai *toaqsä* ‘earthenware’; also Written Mongolian *toysu(n)*, Mongolian *tooso(n)*, Buriat *tooho(n)* ‘dust’ (Tsintsius, 1977: II. 154).

Judging from these passages, it is possible to hypothesize the etymology of the word *kentük* as follows: *kentük* < *ken* < *kiän* ‘hole, hollow’ and + *tük* (*tāk* ~ *tok* ~ *toj* ~ *toy*) < *tük* ‘earthenware vessel’ < ‘earthenware’ that is ‘concave earthenware vessel’.

(3) KÖNEK ‘bucket, vessel, sack’ can be seen in the following forms: Bashkir *künäk* ‘a k. of bucket’ (Budagov, 1871: 96); Turkmen *konek* ‘milking leather pail’; Tatar dialect *kunok* ‘box or bucket made of birch bark’; Bashkir dialect ‘woven basket’; Altai *könök* ‘bucket’; Kirghiz *konek* ‘leather sack’ (Levitskaja, 1997: 104); Tuva *xonek* ‘teapot’, *xuuŋ* ‘wooden bucket’ (Sidikov, 1983: 59); Uzbek dialect *konak* ‘leather vessel used for storing fermented milk’ (Marufov ed. 1981: I. 415); *xənək* ‘wash-hollow in the room’ (Muhamadjonov, 1981:167).

Turkic *konek* > Written Mongolian *könüg* ‘bucket, pail’, Mongolian *xonog* ‘bucket, pail’, Buriat *xuneg* ‘wooden bucket, pail’; further > TM: Solon *xongē* ‘bucket’, *xongē*, Evenki *kōni* ‘box made of birch bark’ (Tsintsius, 1975: I. 412, 478), also Even *kornek* ‘box for cups, glasses’ (Danilova, 1991: 32). Forms are *xonek*, *xuuŋ* in Tuva and *xənək* in Uzbek dialect probably back loans < Mongolian. Furthermore, in the Korean language the word *konegi* is noted with the meaning ‘tall earthenware jar with a dark brown glaze’ (Phyojungugodesajon I. 412).

The Etymological Dictionary of the Altaic Languages proposes (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07) the Turkic proto-form: **köjnek* ‘bucket, vessel’; Mongolian proto-form: **kunija* ‘dish made of birch’; Tungus proto-form: **xuŋa-* 1 ‘ladle’, 2 ‘thimble’, 3 ‘finger’, 4 ‘wooden bucket’; Korean proto-form: **küni* ‘manger, trough’; Japanese proto-form **kūm-* ‘to scoop’, and that their Proto-Altaic reconstruction is http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?single=1&basename=data/alt/altet&text_recno=526&root=config **k`ōni* meaning ‘ladle’.

Other than the meanings above, the word *konek* and other Turkish forms such as *künğ* (Malov, 1951: 395), *künk* (Türkçe Temel Sözlük I-2. 782) also may mean ‘drain, gutter’. In addition, in Mongolian *konak* means ‘gutter’ (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07).

It is obvious that in the Altaic words **köjnek*, **kunija*, **xuŋa-*, **küni* the meaning ‘hollow, cavity’ is dominant. Furthermore, in the Kangwon, Kyongi, Jonra, Chuchong, Hanghe dialects of Korean *kunjök*, and in the Hambuk dialect, *kunjae* means ‘hole, hollow’ (Phyojungugodesajon I. 640). Written Mongolian *köndei*, Kalmuck *köndä*, Dagur *kuëndi* ‘hole, hollow’, Buriat *xünxi* ‘hollow under ice’ (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07).

In accordance with what we have discussed, it is possible to hypothesize that Turkic **köjnek* ‘bucket, vessel’; Mongolian **kunija* ‘dish made of birch’; Tungus **xuŋa-* 1 ‘ladle’, 2 ‘thimble’, 3 ‘finger’, 4 ‘wooden bucket’; and Korean **küni* ‘manger, trough’ (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07) come from the same root: **k`ōne* ‘hole, hollow’.

(4) KUMBARA ‘small earthenware or metal vessel’. In Turkish *kumbara* means ‘small earthenware or metal vessel with a hole for saving money used by children’ (Türkçe Temel Sözlük 1-2. 765), Kirghiz *kumra* ‘small earthenware jug’ (Budagov, 1871: 93), Kazak *kumira* ‘small earthenware jug’ (Ismoilov, 1990: 58). Moreover, in Turkish dialects the word *kumbar* ~ *kumbari* (Acıpayamlı, 1976: 126) is also used as a food name (a k. of fried bowels).

The Persian origin of Turkish *kumbara*, suggested in Eren (1999: 266), is improbable.

The Etymological Dictionary of the Altaic Languages (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07) proposes Proto-Turkic **kumgan* as ‘kettle, jug’; Proto-Mongolian **kombuga* as ‘sack’; Proto-Tungus-Manchu **kōmba* as ‘scoop, ladle’; and Proto-Japanese **kāmá* as ‘kettle’ from which is the reconstructed Proto-Altaic form of the word as **kumba(ka)* meaning ‘a k. of vessel’.

In my view, we can add to this group Even *kubere* meaning ‘teapot’ (Danilova, 1991: 34) and Korean Jeju dialect *kombak* (*komphak*) meaning ‘an iron-scoop net’ (Phyojungudesajon I. 495, 497).

In Turkic languages, there are various usages of the word *qumgan*. It may mean ‘kettle’, ‘teakettle’, ‘teapot’, ‘jug’, ‘earthenware jar’, ‘flask’. It is seen in the following forms: Karakhanide Turkic *qumyan*; Turkish dialect *qumyān*, *qumyan*, *qumyon*; Karakalpak, Balkar, Kirghiz, Noghai, Uighur and Kazakh dialect *qumyan*; Uzbek *qumyon*; Kazakh dialect *qumqan*; Tatar, Bashkir and Bashkir dialect *qomyan*; Bashkir dialect *qomqan*; Azerbaidzhan *gumyan*; Turkmen dialect *gumyān*; Chuvash and Chuvash dialect *kāmkan*; Kumyk *qumman*; Karakalpak, Turkish and Uzbek dialect *quman*; Turkish dialect *qoman* (Sevortjan, 1989: VI. 139).

In addition, these words may be encountered in the following languages: in written Mongolian the word *xumxan* means ‘cup’, in Mongolian *xumx* means ‘jug, jar’ (Fedotov, 1996: I. 252); in Manchu *xumyan* means ‘jug’; ‘vessel for holy water (of budist)’ in Negidal *komjan* means ‘scoop, ladle, spoon’ (Tsintsius, 1975: I. 408, 477).

There are various claims about the etymology of the word *qumyan*. According to Clauson (1972: 627) the *qumyan* may be a corruption Arabian *qumquma*. Räsänen (1969: 300) compares *qumyan* with Mongolian *qumagan*. Eyuboğlu (1995: 433) asserts that the word *qumyan* in Turkic is formed from the old Turkic verb *ko-/koy-* meaning ‘to put’ and the suffix *-man*. Rahmatullayev (2000: 575-576) claims that *qumyan* comes from the old Turkic verb *qum-* ‘to be covered with waves’ > ‘to boil’ plus the suffixes *ya+n*.

In my view, from the phonetic and semantic points of view, it may be argued that the words *qumyan*, *kumbara*, *ku(m)bere* come from the root *kūmi* meaning ‘hollow, cavity, inner angle’. The Etymological Dictionary of the Altaic Languages (<http://starling.rinet.ru> 08.01.07) proposes Mongolian proto-form **kōmūg* ‘edge, overhang (of a mountain), shelter’; Tungus-Manchu proto-form **kum-* ‘1 edge 2 hollow, cavity 3 precipice’; Korean proto-form **kūm-* ‘cavity, hole’; and Japanese proto-form **kūma* ‘inner angle, cavity’ from which is the reconstructed Proto-Altaic form of the word as **kūmi* (~-o-) ‘hollow, cavity, inner angle’.

In keeping with the claims above, I would like to continue to analyse the morphemes *yan~ gan~ kan* of the word *qumgan* and *bara ~ bere* of the word *kumbara*. Kashgariy (1963: I. 327) notes the word *bart* as an Oguz word meaning ‘mug for drinking water’. Clauson (1972: 358) shows that the word *bart* means ‘vessel for measuring wine or any

other liquid'. Eren (1999: 40) points to the fact that in Turkish the word *bardak* meaning 'cup for drinking water or any other beverage' and 'earthenware jar' developed from the word < /bart/ 'mug for drinking water' and the diminutive morpheme /+ (a)k /.

In Tatar *bardak* means 'earthenware jar', in Azerbaidzhan *bardak* means 'earthenware jar' (Eyuboğlu, 1995: 820), in several dialects of Turkish *bardak* assumes the meaning 'wooden vessel for water' (Acıpayamlı, 1976: 18). Moreover, in Even the word *baran* means 'a big concave vessel' (Danilova, 1991: 34); and in Korean the word *bari* is noted with the meaning of 'brazen woman's rice bowl' (Phyojungugodesajon II. 2418).

It seems that the general meaning of the words *bart* ~ *baran* ~ *bari* is 'vessel' and they are etymologically connected with *bara* and the second element in the word *kumbara*. It is possible to propose the etymology of the word *kumbara* in Altaic languages as follows: *kumbara* < *kum* < *kúmi* 'hollow, cavity, inner angle' + *bara* 'vessel'. Thus, I reconstruct the Altaic proto-form *kúmbara* as meaning 'concave vessel' (**kúmbara* > Turkic *kumbara* > *kumbuga* > *kumga* > *kumga* +n > *kumgan*; Mongolian *kombuga* > *qombuŷa* / *xombogo*; Tungus-Manchu *kômba* > *qombu* / *qombo*; and Korean *kômba*+k > *kômbak*).

Furthermore, on the basis of the words *kumbara* and *kombuga* in the Altaic languages it is possible to establish the phonetic correspondences as *g*, *ɣ*, *x* and *r*. There are other examples: Turkic *g*, Mongolian *ɣ*, Tungus-Manchu *g*, Korean *r*; cf. Turkic *jagi* 'enemy', Mongolian *dayin* 'enemy', Tungus-Manchu *dagu-r* 'fellow', Korean *darida* 'another'; Turkic *r*, Mongolian *ɣ*, Tungus-Manchu *x*; cf. Turkic *sariŷ* 'yellow; greyish'; Mongolian *sayaral* 'grey'; Tungus-Manchu *saxarin* 'black'.

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