



The International Quantitative Linguistics Association

REFERENCE

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHONOLOGY OF AGGLUTINATIVE LANGUAGES IN A DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE (ON THE MATERIAL OF THE ASIA MINOR'S TURKIC LITERARY LANGUAGES OF XIII - XX CENTURIES)

Thesis submitted for the degree of doctor of sciences in Philology for the specialty: 10.02.19 – Theory of Language

To whom it may concern:

The discussion is well structured, clearly argued, and nicely literate with an excellent command of English. Knowledge of the subject is impressively thorough. Overall, it is an excellent piece of work, and certainly deserving of the degree of doctor of sciences in Philology. I suggest further that, in future work, Ms. Avrutina address the following issues.

1. The key to successful scientific work is a succinct formulation of the research question that it addresses. The formulation of the research question is currently spread out over the Introduction and Chapter 1, and the effect is diffuse. In reading these sections, I found myself wondering whether the main focus is the historical development of the Turkic languages using quantitative linguistics as a methodology, or on development of quantitative methodology applied to historical phonology using the Turkic languages for exemplification. Subsequent reading revealed that it is the former, but for clarity I suggest a brief, clear, and succinct formulation of the research question in one place at the outset, on which subsequent argumentation is based.
2. There is little reference to Western phonological theory and historical phonology, most of the references are to Russian and other Eastern work, and the Western work referenced is rather antiquated (ie Greenberg). I don't know how international the readership is intended to be, but to carry conviction in the Western linguistic community the range of reference will require some expansion.
3. The quantitative methodological aspect of the thesis is commendably competent and thorough. I suggest that, in future work, this aspect of Ms. Avrutina's research be extended to other types of mathematical and statistical analysis. Given the corpus-based nature of her work, cluster analysis would be a natural extension.

None of the above comments are intended to detract from the excellent quality of the thesis. They are intended as an encouragement to a promising researcher.

Thesis on the topic: "**PHONOLOGY AND MORPHONOLOGY OF AGGLUTINATIVE LANGUAGES IN A DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE (ON THE MATERIAL OF THE ASIA MINOR'S TURKIC LITERARY LANGUAGES OF XIII - XX CENTURIES)**" corresponds to the basic requirements established by the Order of 01.09.2016 No. 6821/1 "On the procedure for awarding academic degrees at the St. Petersburg State University", applicant Apollinaria S. Avrutina deserves the award of the degree of doctor of sciences in Philology for the specialty 10.02.19 – Theory of Language.

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