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İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ
Edebiyat Fakültesi Dekanlığı
Çağdaş Türk Lehçeleri ve Edebiyatları Bölüm
Başkanlığı



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Review on Apollinariya S. Avrutina's

“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)

This is a detailed study on republican Turkish (or simply Turkish) from 13th century till 20th century. Turkish phonology described detailed from early Turkish texts till 20th century. During this description used earlier studies like Tahsin Banguoğlu and newest studies like Cem Dilçin. Sometime also used some dissertations from different Turkish universities.

That is nice that 9 vowels described for Old Turkic and also for Old Ottoman, for Old Anatolian Turkish. Actually 100 years ago in Russia, specially by W. Radloff accepted only 8 vowels for Turkic languages. Unfortunately still in Turkey, majority of Turcologists still talk about only 8 vowels for Common Turkic. About closed, 9th vowel in Turkic see p. 106-109.

Let me summarize some of my observations from thesis:



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p. 102 : “Dybo includes the Old Turkic languages in the Oghuz group of the Turkic languages, which splits around 470 AD into the Old Turkic ...” But tis suggestion is this is very hypothetical, and theoretical. Because there is not any concrete materials from Turkic earlier than beginnings of 8th century.

At somewhere talked on “Yollig Khaagan”, but exactly must be “Yollug prince” or “Yollug Tegin”. He was never a Khaghan.

p. 105 talked about origin of the Turkic runic alphabet citations: “it appeared (in mid-7th cent. AD) on the basis of the Old Turkic national drawing fund consisting of *tamgi* (family symbols, often the private or collective property signs)”.

That can not be true, there is not even more than 5 letters which were created trough *Tamghas* from 38 runic Turkic letters.

p. 106 mentioned Thomsen : “an average between /i/ and /ä/ by the angle of jaw position, found by V. Tompsen ...” → Thomsen

p. 109 talked about labial consonants from runic Turkic: “Phonemes /p/, /b/,



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/m/ represent the typical Turkic labial consonants ...”.

Actually it must be four labial consonants additionally with *v* from old Turkic period (including runic Turkic).

See also p. 114 for the same topic “Table 3. The system of the consonant phonemes of the runiform scripts language. “

We can find phonetical charts of Old Anatolian Turkish at following pages:

p. 130 : The system of vowels of Old Anatolian Turkic consists of the following elements: /b/ — /p/, /d/ — /t/, /g/ — /k/, /z/ — /s/, /c/ — /ç/, /ş/, /v/ — /f/, /r/, /l/, /y/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /h/.

p. 135: Table 4. System of vowel phonemes of Old Anatolian Turkic, 9 vowels

A few time mentioned Danişmendname. There is also another edition on Danişmendname from Ş. Tekin’s book series which was prepared by Necati Demir.

What is interesting for me, “system of vowel phonemes of the Middle Ottoman language” with 8 vowels (see table 6). I guess, Ottoman language had 9 vowels till alphabet reform (till 1928). Just a limited area (like Istanbul and Balkans) had 8 vowels. Even at Istanbul dialect there was 9th



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vowel like in “Rum-éli” (Balkans and more) and also Kırklar-éli, éloğlu
“others, foreigners”.

There is very detailed remarks on Arabian and Persian loanwords in
Turkish.

At p. 233 described initial consonants as following: “in the absolute
beginning of the Turkish words there are no: /f/, /m/, /z/, /ğ/, /z/, /ʎ/”.

Actually for Common Turkic we can add also η which is not an initial
consonant in Turkish too.

There is around 100 pages charts and close to 400 used sources.

There is limited Cyrillic – Latin differences like Ryasanen (instead of
Räsänen) and Tukui (instead of Tukiü).

Finally, Apollinariya S. Avrutina’s thesis is very well prepared to defence it
at 12th May 2020.

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