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MORPHOLOGICAL CATEGORIES AND FORMATION FEATURES OF PARTS OF SPEECH IN THE 12TH CENTURY TURKIC LANGUAGE AND OLD FRENCH

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Abstract

This article examines the morphological categories and formation features of parts of speech in the 12th century Turkic language and Old French from a comparative historical perspective. The study analyses the grammatical structure of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numerals, verbs, adverbs, auxiliary elements, conjunctions and interjections. Although these languages belong to different language families, they developed sophisticated morphological systems during the medieval period.

Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqolada XII asr turkiy tili va qadimgi fransuz tilidagi so‘z turkumlarining morfologik kategoriyalari hamda ularning shakllanish xususiyatlari qiyosiy-tarixiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot davomida ot, sifat, olmosh, son, fe’l, ravish, yordamchi birliklar, bog‘lovchilar va undovlarning grammatik xususiyatlari o‘rganiladi. Har ikki til turli til oilalariga mansub bo‘lishiga qaramay, o‘rta asrlarda rivojlangan murakkab morfologik tizimlarga ega bo‘lgan.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются морфологические категории и особенности формирования частей речи в тюркском языке XII века и старофранцузском языке в сравнительно-историческом аспекте. Анализируются грамматические особенности существительных, прилагательных, местоимений, числительных, глаголов, наречий, служебных слов, союзов и междометий. Несмотря на принадлежность к разным языковым семьям, оба языка в средневековый период обладали сложными морфологическими системами.

Keywords: 12th century Turkic language, Old French, morphology, parts of speech, grammatical categories, comparative linguistics, historical linguistics, medieval languages.

Kalit so‘zlar: XII asr turkiy tili, qadimgi fransuz tili, morfologiya, so‘z turkumlari, grammatik kategoriyalar, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, tarixiy tilshunoslik, o‘rta asr tillari.

Ключевые слова: тюркский язык XII века, старофранцузский язык, морфология, части речи, грамматические категории, сравнительное языкознание, историческое языкознание, средневековые языки.

Introduction. The comparative study of medieval languages occupies an important place in modern historical linguistics because it allows researchers to trace the evolution of grammatical systems and identify universal and language-specific characteristics. The 12th century represents a significant stage in the development of both Turkic and Old French languages. During this period, Turkic literary traditions continued to develop on the basis of earlier monuments, while Old French experienced considerable growth as a literary and administrative language.

The two languages belong to different linguistic families and represent distinct typological structures. The Turkic language belongs to the Turkic language family and demonstrates an agglutinative structure, whereas Old French belongs to the Romance branch of the Indo-European family and exhibits a fusional morphological system inherited from Latin. Despite these differences, both languages developed rich grammatical categories that enabled efficient communication and literary expression.

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The objective of this study is to analyse the morphological categories and formation features of parts of speech in the 12th century Turkic language and Old French from a comparative perspective.

Morphological categories of nouns. The noun system in the 12th century Turkic language was highly developed and relied on suffixation. Nouns expressed grammatical meanings through regular affixes attached to lexical stems. The category of number was represented by singular and plural forms, with the plural marker generally appearing as *-lar* or *-lär*. Possessive relations were expressed by possessive suffixes corresponding to grammatical persons. The case system was also productive and included nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative and ablative cases.

Unlike Turkic, Old French nouns were characterized by inflectional endings inherited from Latin. The noun system preserved grammatical gender and distinguished masculine and feminine forms. In addition, nouns were marked for singular and plural numbers and retained a reduced case system consisting of the subject case and the oblique case. As the language evolved, this case distinction gradually disappeared.

Morphological categories of adjectives. In the 12th century Turkic language, adjectives generally remained invariable and did not agree with nouns. Their primary function was to modify nouns and express qualitative, quantitative or relational meanings. Degrees of comparison could be expressed analytically through lexical means.

Old French adjectives, however, agreed with nouns in gender, number and, in some cases, grammatical case. This agreement system constituted one of the characteristic features of Old French morphology and contributed to the complexity of sentence structure.

The formation of adjectives in Turkic was mainly based on derivational suffixes, whereas Old French inherited numerous adjectival patterns from Latin and further developed them through productive suffixation.

Morphological categories of pronouns and numerals. Pronouns in the 12th century Turkic language included personal, demonstrative, interrogative and possessive forms. They were subject to case inflection and frequently appeared with possessive suffixes. Similarly, Old French possessed a rich system of pronouns, including subject and object forms. Since Old French retained case distinctions, pronouns exhibited different forms according to their syntactic functions. Numerals in both languages primarily functioned as determiners. However, Turkic numerals remained morphologically stable, while some Old French numerals underwent phonological and morphological changes inherited from Latin.

Morphological categories of verbs. The verbal system constituted one of the most developed components of both languages. In the 12th century Turkic language, verbs expressed categories such as tense, aspect, mood, voice, person and negation. These categories were realized through a transparent system of suffixes attached sequentially to the verbal root. The agglutinative nature of Turkic enabled the creation of numerous grammatical combinations without significant irregularities. Old French verbs possessed a highly complex inflectional paradigm inherited from Vulgar Latin. Verbs expressed person, number, tense, mood and voice through changes in verbal endings. Several conjugation classes coexisted, and irregular verbs occupied an important place in the language.

Morphological categories of adverbs and auxiliary elements. Adverbs in the 12th century Turkic language were often derived through suffixation and generally remained unchanged. They expressed temporal, spatial, modal and quantitative meanings. In Old French, adverbs frequently originated from Latin adjectival forms and became increasingly productive through suffixes such as *-ment*. Another significant difference concerns relational words. Turkic primarily employed postpositions, which followed the noun phrase. Old French, on the contrary, extensively used

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prepositions placed before nouns. Conjunctions and interjections existed in both languages and played essential roles in organizing discourse and expressing emotions.

Formation features of parts of speech. Word formation mechanisms in both languages reflect their typological identities. In the 12th century Turkic language, derivation was predominantly accomplished through suffixation. Numerous nouns, adjectives and verbs were created by adding productive affixes to lexical stems. This process ensured a transparent relationship between root and derived word. Old French employed both inherited Latin vocabulary and newly developed derivational mechanisms. Suffixes such as *-ment*, *-age*, *-eur* and *-tion* became highly productive and contributed to lexical expansion. The development of both languages demonstrates that morphological systems evolve according to internal linguistic laws while simultaneously reflecting historical, social and cultural influences.

Conclusion. The comparative analysis of the 12th century Turkic language and Old French reveals significant typological differences in their morphological organization. The Turkic language developed a regular agglutinative system characterized by productive suffixation and structural transparency. In contrast, Old French preserved a fusional system inherited from Latin, characterized by grammatical gender, adjective agreement and complex verbal inflection. Despite their differences, both languages established sophisticated grammatical systems capable of expressing complex semantic and syntactic relations. The study of their morphological categories contributes to a deeper understanding of language evolution and enriches the field of historical-comparative linguistics.

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