

Lexical-Semantic and Grammatical Features of *Aq* (White) in Karakalpak Phraseology

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ABSTRACT

*Phraseology represents a vital component of a language's lexical and semantic system, capturing the cultural, cognitive, and expressive characteristics of its speakers. In the Karakalpak language, phraseological units containing color terms particularly the color component *aq* ("white") exhibit rich structural variation and high usage frequency. Despite previous grammatical classifications of Karakalpak phraseology, a specialized structural modeling of color-based phraseological units remains insufficiently systematized. This study examines the grammatical organization and structural patterns of phraseological units containing the component *aq* (white) in Karakalpak. Utilizing a descriptive-analytical framework and structural modeling, phraseological units were extracted from Karakalpak literary prose and classified based on component count: two-component, three-component, four-component, and multi-component structures. The findings demonstrate that two- and three-component units predominate due to their communicative efficiency and high frequency in discourse. Syntactic linkages within these units rely primarily on coordination, adpositional dependency, and case-governed subordination. This research contributes to Turkic phraseology by establishing a formalized structural framework for color-based idioms.*

Keywords: Karakalpak language, phraseology, structural modeling, color term *aq* (white), phraseological units, grammatical structure.

1. INTRODUCTION

Phraseology serves as a reflection of a linguistic community's worldview, historical experience, and cultural values. Within Turkic linguistics and Karakalpak philology, the study of phraseological units (PUs) has traditionally focused on semantic classifications and part-of-speech alignments (Ainazarova 2014; Berdimuratov 1958; Tanirbergenov 2018). In conventional Karakalpak phraseological studies, PUs are broadly categorized into four primary syntactic-semantic groups based on their syntactic functions:

1. Noun-equivalent (substantive) phraseological units;
2. Adjective-equivalent (attributive) phraseological units;
3. Adverbial phraseological units;
4. Verb-equivalent (verbal) phraseological units (Nauryzbaeva 1972; Yusupova 2008).

While foundational studies have explored general phraseological types, the structural-grammatical patterns and generative models of specific lexical sets specifically color-based idioms remain under-researched. Structural aspects of two-component phraseological units were investigated in detail by Ainazarova (2014). Tanirbergenov (2018) addressed the semantic-stylistic features and structural types of verbal phraseological units in Karakalpak. Furthermore, structural typologies of Karakalpak nominal idioms were analyzed by Nauryzbaeva (1972), who identified 11 structural types of nominal PUs, while Yusupova (2008) differentiated 12 structural models within a specific subcategory of idioms.

A ongoing theoretical debate in general phraseology concerns the minimum and maximum component count of phraseological units. While some scholars hold that a phraseological unit must strictly consist of at least two distinct lexical words, others suggest that single-word units can express idiomatic meaning. Japarov (1992) argued that certain single-word combinations or compound words can convey idiomatic senses. However, following classical phraseological theory,

single words with figurative meanings cannot be classified as true phraseological units. As Vinogradov (1977) formulated, the emergence of phraseological units progresses from phraseological fusions to phraseological combinations, necessitating a multi-word constituent structure.

In Karakalpak, phraseological units exhibit structural diversity, ranging from two-component combinations to complex multi-word expressions. Color idioms containing the component *aq* ("white") form a productive structural and semantic layer. The component *aq* in Karakalpak carries extensive symbolic connotations, representing purity, honesty, kindness, innocence, and intensity. However, a comprehensive analysis of the grammatical models governing *aq*-based phraseological units has not yet been conducted.

The objective of this study is to classify and analyze the structural-grammatical organization of phraseological units containing the component *aq* in the Karakalpak language, establishing their constituent models, syntactic relationships, and component distributions.

2. METHODS

This study employs a descriptive-analytical methodology combined with structural-syntactic modeling. The research design comprises three main stages:

1. **Data collection:** The primary empirical material was extracted from modern Karakalpak literary prose, including works by prominent authors such as T. Kaipbergenov, G. Esemuratova, M. Daribaev, A. Begimov, J. Aimurzaev, Sh. Seitov, M. Nizanov, P. Khojamuratova, K. Mambetov, and K. Rakhmanov. A corpus of phraseological units containing the constituent *aq* was compiled through targeted sampling.
2. **Structural classification:** The collected phraseological units were categorized into four structural groups based on component volume:
 - Two-component units;
 - Three-component units;

- Four-component units;
 - Multi-component (five or more words) units.
3. **Grammatical modeling:** Each phraseological unit was mapped onto specific part-of-speech combinatory models (e.g., Adjective + Noun, Noun + Verb, Adjective + Adjective). Syntactic connections between components including coordination, subordination, and case marking were analyzed to determine the internal cohesion of the idiomatic structures.

3. RESULTS

The structural analysis reveals that phraseological units containing the component *aq* in Karakalpak are predominantly compact, consisting primarily of two and three components. The structural brevity of these idioms serves communicative economy, enabling concise and precise expression, which directly correlates with a higher frequency of usage in literary and everyday speech.

Syntactically, the components inside these phraseological units are linked via adpositional joining, nominal compounding, and case-governed subordination. In structures governed by case inflections, the head noun exhibits formal and semantic dependency on the preceding or succeeding constituent.

3.1. *Two-component phraseological units containing aq*

Two-component units constitute the most numerous and structurally diverse group. Five primary structural models were identified:

Model 1: Adjective + noun

In this highly productive model, the initial component *aq* (acting as an adjective) combines with a substantive noun. Examples:

- *aqko'n'il* (kind-hearted, pure-souled): *Qyzym dal akesineusag' anaqko'n'il* (My daughter is pure-hearted, just like her father).

- *aqkewil* (benevolent, sincere): *Nurtjang'arrysyyaqluyaqke wiladamlaryedi* (They were sincere people like old man Nurjan).
- *aqpeyil* (well-intentioned, generous): *G'ayratlyananyn' aqpeyilini...* (The active mother's good intentions...).

Model 2: Noun + adjective

This model features a noun combined with an attributive/adjectival state. Examples:

- *suyttenaq* (whiter than milk/innocent, blameless): *Suyttenaqbolsam da tjazyqsyzo'lipketetujg'ynbolg'anymba?* (Even if I am whiter than milk, am I to die innocently?).
- *peyiliaq* (pure in spirit, pure-hearted).

Model 3: Adjective + adjective

Composed of two qualitative components, often forming compound attributive modifiers. Example:

- *aqko'zlik* (stubbornness, blindrecklessness): *Balaanasyynyn' aqko'zlikpenenisenetujg'ynynbilgenso'n'...* (After the child realized his mother believed him out of blind faith...).

Model 4: Noun + verb

Combines a substantive component with a verbal predicate. Example:

- *kesasyag'armay* (having endless misfortune/ill-fated): *"O'mirinshekesasyag'armaykiyatujg'ynbirewdin' qyzynyn' izinde..."* (Following the daughter of someone whose fortune never brightened...).

Model 5: Adjective + verb

Combines an adjectival modifier directly with a verbal root. Ex:

- *aqko'zleniw* (to become blindly devoted/act recklessly out of affection): *Ana degenperzent dese aqko'zlenipketedi-aw* (A mother becomes blindly devoted when it comes to her child).

3.2. *Three-component phraseological units containing aq*

Three-component units demonstrate more complex syntactic chaining, combining nouns, adjectives, paired modifiers, and verbs. Seven distinct structural models were documented:

Model 1: Noun + adjective + verb

Example:

- *ko'zlerinappaqeti*w (to shock/terrify someone, make eyes go white): *Salyqtanko'zlerinappaqetemen...* (I will make their eyes bulge from taxes...).

Model 2: Adjective + noun + verb

Examples:

- *aqyyyqboly*w (to become experienced/hardened through trials);
- *aqtabanqyly*w (to force to travel relentlessly/exhaust by running);
- *aqtywye-niko'rmew* (to pretend not to notice anything, act completely ignorant);
- *aqko'bikqyly*w (to ride a horse to a white lather/foam).

Model 3: Paired adjective + verb

Example:

- *aqty-qaranybiletiny*n (to distinguish white from black/to be wise, experienced): *Yaq, olarendiulkeydi, aqty-qaranybiletujg'ynboldy...* (No, they have grown up now and know white from black...).

Model 4: Noun + paired adjective

Example:

- *ko'ziniyn' ag'y-qarasy* (the white and black of one's eye/one's sole cherished child): *"Ko'zimin' ag'yw-qarasyndaytjaljgyzg' anabalam-g'oy..."* (He is my only child, the apple of my eye...).

Model 5: Adjective + adjective + verb

Example:

- *aqyylibolyw* (to establish an independent household/to be exiled to a settled habitation): *Seniyn' ushyn 'aqyyli' bolatujg'yntjag'dayymtjoq...* (I am in no position to set up a white yurt/household for you...).

Model 6: Noun + verb + verb

Example:

- *tywriag'arypketiw* (to turn pale / turn white in the face).

Model 7: Adjective + noun + modal word

Example:

- *aqtjini bar* (to be short-tempered, quick to anger).

3.3. Four-component phraseological units containing aq

Four-component units exhibit balanced parallelism and symmetrical phrasing. Four structural models were identified:

1. **Adjective + verb + adjective + verb:** *aqtjuwyp, aqtarayw* (to care for someone impeccably, wash and comb with devotion).
2. **Noun + adjective + noun + adjective:** *suyttenaq, sywdantaza* (whiter than milk, clearer than water/completely innocent, faultless).
3. **Noun + adjective + conjunction + adjective:** *ko'ziniyn' ag'yminenqarasy* (one's most precious person/child).
4. **Adjective + noun + verb + verb:** *aqko'zboypketiw* (to become blinded or fixated).

3.4. Multi-component phraseological units

Multi-component units (comprising five or more lexical components) function as highly vivid, narrative idiomatic expressions.

- *aqbezerdeko'kbezerbolyw* (to change color out of extreme embarrassment or rage): "*Olarndyn' aldynaturg'antjigit aqbezerdeko'kbezerboldy...*" (The young man standing before them turned white and blue with distress...).
- *awyzymnanaqiytkirip, qaraiytshyqty* (to curse uncontrollably, utter all kinds of foul words): "*Tuwwlapketip, awyzymnanaqiytkirip, qaraiytshyqty*" (Losing temper, white dogs entered and black dogs left my mouth...).
- *aqdeseyn'izaq, qaradeseyn'izqara* (to be completely obedient, agreeing to whatever is commanded).

4. DISCUSSION

The grammatical taxonomy established in this study confirms that phraseological units containing the component *aq* in Karakalpak follow strict structural principles while displaying significant generative capability.

Quantitative distribution demonstrates a clear inverse relationship between component length and usage frequency. Two-component expressions (e.g., *aqko'n'il, aqkewil*) and three-component expressions (e.g., *aqtuwyeniko'rmew*) form the core of Karakalpak color phraseology. Their structural compactness allows them to integrate easily into clause structures as pre-verbal modifiers or nominal predicates.

Furthermore, the structural analysis underscores the interaction between syntax and semantics. While two-component models rely predominantly on simple attributive attribution (Adjective + Noun), multi-component structures rely heavily on binary opposition most notably pairing *aq* (white) with *qara* (black) or *ko'k* (blue/green). The binary pairing *aq/qara* (white/black) generates highly productive models across three-, four-, and multi-component idioms (e.g., *aqty-qaranybiletyn, suyttenaq, sywdantaza, aqdeseyn'izaq, qaradeseyn'izqara*). In these models, *aq* symbolizes good, truth, innocence, or light, whereas *qara* symbolizes difficulty, evil, or burden.

Comparing these results with broader Turkic phraseology reveals that structural models containing *aq* in Karakalpak closely mirror syntactic structures found in Kazakh, Uzbek, and

Turkmen phraseological systems. However, Karakalpak retains distinct ethnolinguistic models tied to nomadic life, such as *aqtuwye-niko'rmew* (literally "not seeing the white camel") and *aquyylibolyw* (literally "to become an owner of a white yurt").

5. CONCLUSION

Phraseological units in the Karakalpak language containing the color component *aq* ("white") represent a structurally structured and semantically rich system. Based on component length and syntactic modeling, these units are categorized into two-, three-, four-, and multi-component groups:

1. Two-component and three-component models constitute the numerical majority, owing to their functional agility and high frequency of communicative use.
2. The primary structural combinations range from simple *Adjective + Noun* patterns to complex *Adjective + Verb + Adjective + Verb* parallelisms.
3. Multi-component units rely heavily on stylistic devices such as antithesis (contrasting *aq* with *qara*), producing idiomatic expressions with high emotional and narrative intensity.

Systematizing the grammatical structure of color phraseology provides a foundation for future comparative studies across Turkic languages, lexicographical encoding, and automated natural language processing (NLP) applications for the Karakalpak language.

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