

A Look at the Etymology of the Lexemes *Arzon*, *Tovar* and *Pul*

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the etymology of important units of trade vocabulary in the Uzbek language – arzon, tovar and pul lexemes. The study emphasizes that the origin of trade vocabulary provides important information not only for linguistics but also for history, culture, and economics. Four main factors for the penetration of borrowings into trade vocabulary were discussed: economic, religious, political-administrative, and technological-innovative factors. The lexeme arzon is borrowed from the persian-tajik language and is actively used in place of the Old Turkic forms uçüz/üçüz and the lexeme in the Turkic language is not used in Uzbek communication. The word tovar has a purely Turkic origin. This word was borrowed into Russian from Turkic languages. Although pul is a loanword, root units such as benäk, yarmak, and aqča existed in Turkic languages. During the study, it was observed that Turkic languages possess rich internal capabilities in the field of trade, yet as a result of long-term contacts, many root words have been replaced by borrowings.

Keywords: Etymology, trade vocabulary, cheap, commodity, money, Turkic languages, borrowing, root word, comparative-historical method.

INTRODUCTION

Trade is one of the oldest types of human activity, and the etymological analysis of the vocabulary associated with it

provides important information not only for linguistics but also for history, cultural studies, and economics. The study of the etymology of trade vocabulary is an important tool in revealing the history of the Uzbek people's ties with other peoples, as well as their cultural and economic relations. However, the etymology of trade vocabulary as a separate object has not been sufficiently studied. In the history of world linguistics, the study of the origin and lexical-semantic development of words became systematic with the emergence of the comparative-historical method in the 19th century. In particular, the fundamental research of linguists such as F. Bopp [4], J. Grimm [6] and R. Rask [13] created the methodological basis of etymology. The theory of the "genealogical tree" of languages put forward by A. Schleicher [19: 116-123] was an important stage in the study of the proto-linguistic forms of Indo-European languages.

The etymological development of the vocabulary of Romance languages was reflected in the encyclopedic research of W. von Wartburg [22]. In the field of the etymology of Slavic languages, particularly Russian, the *Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language* by M. Fasmer [17] and the multi-volume *Etymological Dictionary of Slavic Languages* published under the editorship of Academician O. Trubachev [21] are considered exemplary studies of lexicographic sources worthy of scientific recognition.

The study of the historical and etymological layers of the lexicon of Turkic languages has a long history, and its first scientific buds go back to Mahmud Kashgari's work *DīwānLughāt al-Turk* from the 11th century. In this work, the author for the first time comparatively highlights the variants of Turkic words related to different nationalities, dialectal changes and semantic development.

In modern Turkology, the direction of comparative-historical etymology reached a new level at the beginning of the 20th century. One of the most authoritative sources in this direction is the work of the English Turkologist Gerard Clauzon [10] "Etymological dictionary of the Turkic language before the 13th century" in which the lexicon of ancient and early medieval Turkic written monuments is subjected to deep etymological

analysis. M. Rasanen [14] revealed the phonetic and etymological patterns of the lexicon of Chuvash and common Turkic languages. The fundamental study covering the etymology of Turkic languages in a broad and comprehensive manner is the multi-volume *Etymological Dictionary of Turkic Languages* which began under the leadership of E. Sevortian [23] and was continued by his followers. This research serves as the primary methodological source for illuminating the etymology of Turkic vocabulary to this day.

Scientific research into the genetic layers of the Uzbek language lexicon and the creation of an etymological lexicography school are directly linked to the name of Academician Sh. Rakhmatullaev [12; 27; 28]. The scientist's three-volume *Etymological Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* is the first comprehensive study that has scientifically revealed the nature, formal and spiritual development of native Turkic words in the lexical composition of the Uzbek language, as well as Arabic, Persian and Russian-European borrowings. Sh. Rahmatullayev published the first etymological dictionary in Uzbek linguistics in 1997-1999 as an experiment. Having corrected the shortcomings of the dictionary, he presented the third-volume *Etymological Dictionary of the Uzbek Language* to the general public between 2000 and 2009. According to the author, the dictionary provides the etymology of 2400 selected Turkic words. Because it is explained in the introduction of the dictionary that it is impossible to give an etymological definition of all words.

In modern Uzbek linguistics, the research of G. Babayarov [1] and other textologist-Turkologists plays an important role in the historical-etymological and linguopoetic study of the lexicon of ancient Turkic inscriptions (Orkhon-Yenisei written monuments). Significant research has also been conducted by scholars such as E. Begmatov [3], T. Nafasov [11] on the study of the onomastic system of the language – the etymology of toponyms and anthroponyms, in which the historical-linguistic development of place names and personal names is etymologically proven. In his research, E. Begmatov emphasized the need to “...determine the origin of each word, its initial

meaning, and its subsequent semantic development...” when studying the historical layers of the Uzbek language lexicon [2: 12].

METHODS

The present study employs the comparative-historical method as the primary research approach, supplemented by diachronic, lexical-semantic, and etymological analysis. This methodological framework is widely recognized in Turkic and general historical linguistics for investigating the origin, development, and stratification of lexical.

The empirical material consists of three key trade-related lexemes of modern Uzbek – *arzon* (cheap), *tovar* (goods, commodity), and *pul* (money). These items were selected because they represent different genetic layers of the Uzbek lexicon and illustrate the interaction between native Turkic and borrowed strata in the domain of commercial vocabulary.

The research procedure involved the following steps:

1. Identification of the earliest attested forms of each lexeme in old and middle turkic written sources;
2. Comparative analysis of phonetic and morphological variants across turkic languages;
3. Examination of semantic development and possible shifts in meaning;
4. Determination of native turkic versus borrowed (persian-tajik, arabic, russian) origin on the basis of formal, semantic, and historical-contact criteria;

Evaluation of the relative chronology of the displacement of native forms by borrowed equivalents where applicable.

All conclusions are based on direct evidence from the primary sources and established etymological scholarship. No quantitative statistical methods were applied, as the study is qualitative and interpretive in nature, which is standard for etymological research in historical linguistics.

RESULTS

Trade vocabulary is one of the most developed systems reflecting the socio-economic evolution of any language and its cultural and economic ties with other peoples. In particular, the study of the stages of formation and development of lexical units describing the economic value and price indicator of a product on the market is one of the topical issues of the etymology of Turkic languages. In the modern Uzbek literary language, the lexeme *arzon* is actively used in communication to express that the price of a product or service is low, that is, the price is not high. The lexeme *arzon* is formed from the verb *arzidan* (TjRS, 30), which means “to have a certain value, a price” with the suffixes “-on”, “-ish” (TjRS, 543) [12: 13]. In literary discourse, this unit has the leading semantic load in describing the value of the product in price: “Cheap goods. Look, everything is cheap.” However, when studying the genesis and historical-etymological layers of this concept, a completely different linguistic picture is observed in ancient and medieval Turkic written sources.

In ancient times, there were several phonetic and semantic variants in Turkic languages to express this adjective, which belong to the original Turkic layer. The following forms of this lexeme are found in *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* [9]:

- It expresses the semantics of “cheap price.” [9: 80]
- “uchuzluq” comes as a unit denoting the state and concept of cheapness. [9: 149]

The semantic field of this lexeme has not lost its consistency in the written monuments of the later period. In particular, M. Kholmurodova found that the unit *üçüz* [18: 59-62] was actively used to indicate the value of the price in the epic *Kutadgu Bilik*.

The conceptual and semantic scope of this concept is widely covered in the comparative-historical grammar and etymological dictionaries of Turkic languages. *Grammar of Turkic Languages* published under the editorship of E. R. Tenishev. In the study “Lexicon” it is shown that there were a number of linguistic

variants in the old Turkic language, such as *uč(u)z*, *qolaj*, *jeni-k* [24: 339-340], to express a cheap price.

In the *Etymological Dictionary of Turkic Languages* published under the editorship of E. V. Sevortyan, the etymological basis of this lexeme is given as the form of the word [25: 567-568], and its phonetic transformations and semantic derivations in different Turkic languages are proved. This situation shows that the internal linguistic possibilities (root words) reflecting the value of the product in economic and trade relations in the ancient Turkic language are sufficiently developed. The conducted diachronic analysis shows that the lexeme *arzon*, which is currently active in the lexical system of the Uzbek language, was acquired as a result of long-term linguistic contacts with the Persian-Tajik language, which completely displaced and replaced the lexemes *učuz/učuz*, which belonged to the native Turkic layer and were in use for centuries.

The word *tovar* is one of the most commonly used vocabulary in live communication. Many people know it as a lexeme borrowed from Russian, but the lexeme is purely Turkic. This lexeme is given in the *Devonilug'ot-it turk* in the meaning of *tawar* [9: 286] – living, inanimate goods, goods. Uyghurs and others call this lexicon *tavar* the author of the work noted. K. Karimov noted in his research that this word is also given as *tawar* [8: 69] in *Kutadgubilik*. Several sources prove that the word *tavar* is a Turkic word. This word was borrowed into Russian from turkic languages.

Initially, the lexeme meant property, livestock. During the Soviet period, it was actively used in the Uzbek language again with a semantic expansion as a new product produced for sale through the Russian language. In M. Fasmer's work *Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language* the origin of the word *tovar* is analyzed in detail [17: 67-68]. This article examines only the form *tovar* I (the main meaning is property, goods). According to M. Vasmer, the word *továr* is also found in the following Slavic languages: Ukrainian *товáп* (commodity, horned cattle), old russian *товаръ* (recorded in Vladimir Monomakh's "Teaching," Smolensk Charter of 1229, and other monuments), Bulgarian

товар (cargo), Serbo-Croatian *tovar*, Slovenian *tóvor* (loaded cargo), Czech and Slovak *tovar*, Polish *towar*.

The author believes that this lexeme is borrowed from Turkic languages. The following forms are cited as the main etymons:

1. Uyghur *tavar* – property, livestock;
2. Turkish and Chagatai *tovar* – goods, property, livestock;
3. Balkar and Crimean-Tatar languages – *tu'ar*;
4. Mongolian *tawar*, Kalmyk *tawr* – goods, property;

According to M. Fasmer, these Turkic words themselves may have originated from the Armenian lexeme *tavar* "sheep, flock of sheep" [17: 62-68].

Money – in modern Uzbek, this lexeme is actively used in speech, expressing the semantics of "a metal or paper sign that is a measure of price, price, value in buying and selling or payment transactions; money." It serves as a standard as a measure of value in artistic speech and folk proverbs. "If there's money, there's soup in the fork" (Proverb). "Sidiqjon wanted to go out in the evening, and Aunt Anzirat... gave him money to get a haircut" (A. Qahhor, "The Lights of Koshchinor"). Trade relations have been carried out by means of money since ancient times, and in the process of transformation from ancient coins and coins to today's paper money, units representing a large number of money names were formed in the lexical system of Turkic languages. In particular, in the work *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* the lexeme *benāk* [9: 305] is given as the main word in the sense of "money" as well as the phonetic variants *yarmaq* and *jarmoqare* used many times in parallel in the lexicographic articles of the work. In the book *Following in the Footsteps of the Forefathers* a brief description of the etymology of ancient forms of money is also provided. In particular, copper coins [20: 188] and coins [20: 275] to express the meaning that copper coin is the smallest monetary unit, the lexeme *oqcha* was actually used in trade as *aqcha*. It is noted that this monetary unit was made of silver and was referred to as *oqcha* due to the white color of the silver. The variants of this word are extensively covered in fundamental sources covering the comparative-historical

phonetics and derivational systems of Turkic languages. The study edited by E. R. Tenishev [24] indicates the active use of currency names characteristic of Turkic regions, such as *benäk*, *jar-maq* [p. 341], *a:q-ča* [p. 342], and *altun* [p. 343]. The etymological basis and lexical-semantic formation of these units have their own peculiarities. The well-known etymologist E. V. Severtian [23: 120] gave a precise description of the lexeme *a:q-ča* (money) as "money made of white silver," based on the relationship between the root and the affix. The internal shape of the unit is based on the color and quality of the metal. The lexeme *yarmaq* is considered to be related to the semantics of separation and division (the verb *yar-*) on the basis of the original Turkic verb [26: 143-144]. Diachronic analysis shows that although the lexeme money, which is commonly used in the modern Uzbek language, belongs to the borrowed layer, the internal capabilities of the language were sufficient to express metal signs in the historical foundation of the language.

DISCUSSION

We believe that the etymological study of trade vocabulary is relevant. The relevance of the problem is manifested in the following: firstly, the ratio of borrowed and native words in the structure of trade vocabulary reflects the stages of historical development of the Uzbek language; secondly, the etymological study of trade terms provides important materials for practical lexicography.

According to the lexical composition of trade in the Uzbek language, it is grouped into native and borrowed layers. A large part of the trade vocabulary consists of borrowed words. Several factors played an important role in the penetration of loanwords specific to trade vocabulary:

The first factor is the economic factor and trade relations. The Great Silk Road was an international trade network connecting Central Asia with China, India, Iran, Arab countries, and Europe. For centuries, this road served to exchange goods and terms between different peoples. Cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent, as international trade centers, have

always attracted Persian, Arab, Indian, and Chinese merchants. As a result, the names of trading places: market, shop, market, caravanserai were borrowed from Persian and Arabic; terms related to money: money, price, cheap, purchase, expensive; and professional names related to trade: merchant, broker, peddler, speculator, butcher, perfumer, etc.

The second factor is religious. In the 8th-9th centuries, with the introduction of Islam to Central Asia, Arabic became the primary language not only for worship but also for law, science, and trade. In Islamic law, there are specific rules governing commercial relations, and all terms in this field are expressed in Arabic. As a result, words expressing the legal and ethical aspects of trade, such as "commercial," "profit," "account," "broker," "loss," "fund," "competition," were borrowed into the Uzbek language. As E. Begmatov noted, the influence of the Arabic language began primarily through religious terminology and later expanded into the fields of trade and law [2: 62-65]. Under the influence of the Arabic language, many trade names were widely used, such as attorney, grocer, peddler, broker, speculator, butcher, and merchant. Vocabulary borrowed from Arabic is actively used in traditional trading markets. The most common branches of Arabic vocabulary include: the trade process and contractual relations (trade, commerce, circulation, contract, agreement, demand, supply, lease), subjects and places of trade (trader, customer, buyer, partner, partnership, (company/association), shop, market, base, warehouse), finance, calculation and measurements (money, cash, credit, fee, debt, benefit (profit), loss, calculation).

The third factor is the political-administrative factor. Each dynasty that ruled in Central Asia influenced the social and linguistic environment of the region by introducing its own administrative and financial system. In the second half of the 19th century, as a result of the establishment of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship by the Russian Empire and the standardization of official record-keeping, the Russian language became the leading means of communication in administrative and social life. This socio-linguistic transformation has also encompassed the fields of trade and economics. As a result of the

region's integration into the imperial market and the introduction of a new banking, financial, and customs system, terms from Russian and other languages rapidly entered the lexicon of traditional trade.

The fourth factor is technological and innovative. The influence of this factor on the lexicon of the language, especially at the end of the 20th century and the first quarter of the 21st century, has increased sharply on a global scale. The digital revolution and the rapid development of e-commerce models have shifted traditional trade relations into a virtual space. As a result, a fundamental change occurred in the commercial vocabulary of the Uzbek language. Not just borrowed words, but entire systemic terminology representing the architecture of digital commerce has entered the sphere of consumption. English, as the language of international business and technology, occupies a leading position in this process. Words such as "marketing" (systematic activity for studying market demands, satisfying consumer needs, and organizing product sales), "brand" (the image of a product, service, or company formed in the consciousness of consumers, a trademark), "franchising" (the granting of the right of use by the brand owner to another entrepreneur on a contractual basis), "online" (a form of communication or activity carried out continuously and in real-time via digital devices and the Internet), "cashback" (the return of a portion of the paid amount to the buyer's account in cash or as a bonus after purchase, an incentive system), and "marketplace" (a digital platform that organizes the sale of products and services between sellers and buyers through online mediation) entered the Uzbek language directly with technological innovations. In traditional trade, the concepts of "market," "shop," and "stands" are used almost exclusively in the digital system.

CONCLUSION

The study of the etymology of trade vocabulary is of great importance for Uzbek linguistics, history, cultural studies, and economics. It not only reveals the process of formation of lexical

layers, but also clearly demonstrates the linguistic picture of the economic, cultural and political relations of the Uzbek people with other peoples. The analyzed lexemes of cheap, commodity, and money serve as vivid examples of the genetic composition and historical development of trade vocabulary. In general, although a large part of the trade vocabulary consists of borrowings, Turkic languages had rich internal lexical possibilities to express economic and trade relations in the early stages. Under the influence of the Great Silk Road, Islam, the Russian administrative system, and modern digital technologies, some of these opportunities have been replaced by borrowings.

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