

ISSN 1226-4490

*International  
Journal of  
Central  
Asian Studies*

Volume 11 2006

**Editor in Chief  
Choi Han Woo**

**The International Association of Central Asian Studies  
Institute of Asian Culture and Development**

# An Altaic Traveling Word: *kır*

Süer Eker

Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey

## Introduction

In this study, the word *kır*, which is mainly used to express ‘high ground’, or ‘plain, steppe’, and related words *kıra*, *kırañ*, *kırgak* etc. will be studied with regard to their form, meaning, and origin in old and modern Turkic languages. *Kır* and its derivations are the examples of traveling words (Wandervort) which are used in their oldest forms in the Turkic languages and dialects as well as Altaic languages and even in other languages.

## 1. The Homonyms of *Kır*

1.1. *Kır* is one of the words having a large number of homonyms in Old Turkic. There are at least five nouns which are represented by the same /kır/ in Old Turkic. However, there are four nouns represented by the same /kır/ in DLT. *Kır* I, ‘low mountain, high ground, plateau, and steppe’; *kır* II, ‘the color grey, the combination of colors white and a little black’ (e.g. *kır at* ‘grey horse’), *kır* III, ‘dam’, *kır (yagi)* IV, ‘unknown, secret enemy’ (Atalay 1985, I, 324). *Kır* also takes place as a modifier in *Kır Çeçäk* V, an anthroponym, in the sources of Old Uygur (see Caferoğlu 1968, DTS 1969).

1.2. *Kır* I as a geographical term and *kır* II as the name of a color exist in almost all of the old and modern Turkic languages. If *kır* III meaning ‘dam’ is not an extension of the meaning of the *kır* I, it is the hap. leg. in Turkic (see Clauson 1972).

1.3. *Kır* I as a geographical term and *kır* V as an anthroponym are probably related words. *Kır* I expresses a kind of geographical formation or a type of this formation. *Kır Çeçäk*, an anthroponym in Old Uygur, is an allegory of the flowers in countryside, plain lands. However, the name of a color *kır* V and *kır* II are not so related in meaning. *Kır Çeçäk* can be considered as an adjective compound; but, the bare noun compound, a type of noun compound where the modified words don't have a possessive suffix can be seen even in runic texts (cf. Orkh. T. *Türük bodun* 'Turkish people', *Tabgaç bodun* 'Chinese people' KT E-6 etc.)

Considering the fact that *kır* II, generally referring to the color of a horse, and T. *kır çiçeği* 'wild flower', Gag. *kır çiçää* id.; Nog *kır şeşekeyleri* refers to the 'countryside, plain lands', it can be claimed that the probability of a relationship between the meanings of *kır* V and *kır* I is higher. In other combinations, only between *kır* I and *kır* III, there is a relation that both words refers to a geographical property or formation. Dankoff&Kelly show *kır* I and *kır* III under the same entry; they also put *kır* II and *kır* IV in the same group (1985 III).

1.4. *Kır* III cannot be found in modern written Turkic languages. But *kır* IV, which is cited in DLT as *kır yagı* 'secret, unknown enemy', and seen in the examples of *adaş köñli sinsa bolur kır yagı* 'if a friend's feelings are hurt, he becomes an enemy' in KB (Arat 1988: 342, 1991: 249) is preserved in the sense of 'hostile, enemy' in Az. *gır yagı*, Tkm. *gır düşman*, and Yak. *kır östööh* id. Moreover, although *kır* II in DS 'stranger' gives us a parallelism between 'stranger' and 'enemy', it might be related to *kır* I to mean 'people coming from different or far away places'

1.5. *Kır* II, as a name of a color is different from other *kır* words from the phonetical respect. In Tkm. *kır* I (*gır*) is with a short vowel, but *kır* I (*gır*) is with a long vowel although it is represented as *k(i)r* in DLT. As it is known, *kır* II is found in Uralic languages, and Iranian languages as a Turkic borrowing (see Räsänen 1968, Clauson 1972).

1.6. The word *kır*, is used almost everywhere where Turkic language is spoken as in toponyms: .... *Kırı*, *Kırdağ*, *Kır Dağı*, *Kirova*; *Kır-Kayıntübä*, *Kır Şıntalı*, *Yegrenlik Kır*, *Kara Kır*, etc. (Golovkina

1996, Jarring 1997 etc.). Nevertheless, it is not possible to identify which *kır* is used in these compounds in most cases.

## 2. *Kır* as a Geographical Concept

2.1. Clauson claims that *kır* has been used for an 'isolated mountain' or 'block of mountains', and more generally for 'high ground' in Turkic languages. He also thinks that "in some languages including NW Nog., SW Osm. it hardly means more than 'plain, steppe, wilderness' without any connotation of height." Furthermore, he says that the meaning of *kır* for 'side, edge' is an extension of its original meaning (1972).

*Kır* is not referred to the 'side, edge' sense in DLT, but for the entry *kırlatmak* 'to get a side, edge built' the following example is given *ol arık kırlattı* 'He got an edge built next to the river.' (cf. Tat. *kırlat-* id., Kyr. *kırda-* 'to smooth the edges') (Atalay II 1986: 348). DLT *kırlat-* must have derived from the *kır*, like *kırgag* 'the side of a garment' (see 5.4.).

Clauson and Erdal share the same view by relating *kırçal-* 'to struck, to fracture' and *kırçat-* 'the causative form of the *kırça-*' with the verb *kır-* 'to scrape' (1972: 647, 1991-2: 421, 664). Nevertheless, as it is clearly seen in the examples of *ol ok amaçka kırçadı* 'that arrow struck the side of the target' (Atalay 1986 III: 277), so the verb *kırça-* is more related to the *kır* rather than the *kır-*. Similarly, the sentence *anıñ başına taş kırçaldı* translated as 'a stone (almost) touched him on the head' (1986 II: 234) (cf. 'The stone struck his head and fractured the skull' Clauson 1972: 647) In this case, one more *kır* meaning 'edge, side' which doesn't have an entry in DLT should be mentioned. This meaning of *kır* can be widely seen in the old and modern sources.

In the translations and index of DLT, *kır* is given as 'high ground, low mountain, open ground' (Atalay I 1985: 324, IV 1986: 316). However, Dankoff&Kelly translate *kır* (*qır*) to English as 'dam; rocky mountain' (1985). These results show that *kır*, as a land formation or feature, refers to 'low mountain' or 'plateau'. In DLT, in the lines '*koydı*

*bulut yağmurın/ kerip tutar ak torın/ kırka kođtı ol karın/ akın akın eñreşür* (Atalay 1986: 39) *kır* clearly means 'mountain'. The line tells us that 'the clouds build their white nets and leave their snow on the *kır* (i.e. mountain), and then they flow down the mountain when the spring comes' (cf. *kırın kar* 'snow from the mountains' Clauson 1972). In KB in the lines *yazı tag kır opri töşendi yađıp/ itindi kolı kaşı kök al keđip* it is told that 'the plain grounds, mountains, deserts, fields spread snow and the valleys and slopes got dressed in green to be beautiful.' (Arat 1988: 17, 1991: 24). The *yazı* 'plain ground, open plain' here contrasts with *tag* 'mountain' in meaning and *kır* contrasts or in complementary distribution with *opri*. Because *opri* means 'steep, pit, hollow' in DLT (Atalay I, 125; III, 134) (cf. DS *obruk* 'pit, hollow'), *kır* refers to a topographical plainness or height. When this parallelization is taken into consideration, *kır* might be thought to be closely related to *yazı* 'plain ground'. In conclusion, if we put these words in the order of altitude, we can have the alternatives as *opri* < *kır/yazı* < *tag* or *opri* < *yazı* < *kır/tag*. Similarly, in KB in the line *tükedi tiriglik kazıldı kırım* 'My life ended and my grave was dug', *kır* refers to the 'grave' (Arat 1988: 434, 1991: 601). A grave just dug might give the impression of a little, low hill after the dead body is buried. Another meaning given to *kır* in LChag. is *hazire*, which refers to a grave surrounded by walls'.

In some other old sources *kır* can be found with similar meanings: Chag., Kyp. *kır* 'the peak of the mountain', Kyp. 'heaven, firmament' (Clauson 1972); Tuh. *kır* 'desert, open plain, a place where there is no human being, sky'; HSh *kır* id.; LChag. *kır* 'desert', 'a grave surrounded by walls, wilderness', 'grey horse', 'mountain', 'open plain', 'steppe', 'desert', 'island', 'valley', 'mountain pasture, plateau' etc.' In Eastern T-E *kır* ~ *ki* ~ *kıy* 'edge of a field, edge of earth or clods of earth which surround each field (cultivated and irrigated square) and which hinder the water to run away when the field is irrigated, bank of a river', *kıy* 'track'; *ki yer* 'square', *kımakı* 'from square to square' (cf. *kırlık* ~ *kılık* 'square'). In LChag. almost all meanings of *kır* are given; however, its meaning 'island' cannot be found in any other Turkic sources. In addition, *eşheb* 'grey' is not the Arabic translation of *kır* I but *kır* II.

### 3. *Kır* in Modern Turkic languages

3.1. Oghuz Languages: T. *kır* 1. contrasting to forest, mountain, etc., it has the meaning of 'countryside, the country, rural area; uncultivated and open country, etc., 2. a place no one lives, out of a city or a village, open country'; Gag. *kır* id. *kır işleri* 'field works', *kır bayır* 'hilly, high ground, *magnit kırı* 'magnetic poles', *tefteri kırı* 'the side of a notebook'; Tkm. *gır* 'a place where there are some open and broad spaces and where there are some hills with stones' (cf. *gırñ daşı yalı* 'to much/many', literally 'just like stones of *gır*').

In Turkmen, *gır* is either a 'hill' or an 'open field with stones' but it is 'plain, smooth ground' in Turkish (cf. T. *alan* 'open, smooth, broad land'; Tkm. *alañ* 'hill, a high land, height'. T. and Gag. *kır* and *bayır* might be homonyms or antonyms; the latter is more probable.

As in other Turkic written languages, in the old Union of Soviet Republic, *kır* is also a term of geometry in Gagauz.

In Turkish, *bozkır* (< *boz* + *kır*), means 'unwatered, nonproductive, unprocessed, not constructed land; steppe' (cf. Tat. *kıraç* ~ *sirt* 'hill').

3.2. Kypchak Languages: Kzx. *kır* 1. high land, hill 2. an open, smooth area out of the city 3. the side/edge of objects; Kkp. *kır* 1. chain of mountains 2. side/edge 3. flank, side of the body; Nog. *kır* 1. steppe, field, 2. wild *kır aywanları* 'wild animals' (cf. Kzx. *kır jemisi* 'wild fruit'); Kyr. *kır* (~ *kırañ*) 1. ridge of a mountain; *kır murun* 1) slim, upturned nose 2) a kind of eagle (cf. DLT *kırguy* id., Eastern T-E *kırguy* ~ *kırguy* 'sparrow-hawk, *Accipiter nisus*', Az. *gırğı* id., Kyr. *kırğıy* id., N. Uyg. *kırguç* id., etc.) 2. hilly steppe, steppe 3. side, edge 4. side, surface *köp caktık kırı* 'the side of polygon'; Tat. *kır* I 'edge, side' *kubuñ kirları* 'the sides of a cube'; *kır* II 1. 1) open, smooth field *kır-dala* id. 2) field to plant 3) field (in physics), *magnit kırı* 'magnetic field' 4) the squares in chess 2. wild field (~ *kırgıy*), *kır* III 'side, flank'; Bash. *kır* I 1. field to plant 2. wild, *kır atı* 'wild horse'; *kır* II 'border, line'; Krch.Blk. *kır* 'open field, steppe; Kmk. *kır* 1. open, empty land 2. wild 3. out, outside; Krm. Tat. *kır* 'mountain; hill'; Kar. *kır* 'steppe'.

In addition to the meanings of ‘altitude, elevation’, ‘smoothness, plainness’ in Oghuz languages, *kır* can be recognized in Kypchak languages as ‘side, edge’, ‘flank, side of the body’, ‘field to plant’, ‘wild’. The meanings of ‘flat/smooth land, ground’ in Kazakh, Nogay, Karachay-Balkar and Karaim is parallel to its meaning in Turkish and Gagauz; however, although, *kır* is ‘an unproductive flat land with stones’ in the mentioned languages, it is so productive to be a field to plant in Tatar.

Kypchak languages display the most complicated meanings of *kır*. In addition to three main meanings ‘altitude, elevation’, ‘edge, side’ and ‘smoothness, plainness’, other meanings as ‘border, line, frontier’, ‘out, outside’, and ‘wild’ can also be recognized.

3.3. Chagatay Languages: Uzb. *qır* I 1. flat, low hill 2. high flat land; *qır* II side, edge; N. Uyg. *kır* (~ *kırğak*, *kırğık*) 1. slope, or side of a mountain, 2. side, edge, border: *üstälniñ kırı* ‘side of the table; *köziniñ kırı bilän karımak* ‘to catch an eye, to have a look at’. The meaning of *kır* in Uzbek ‘flat, low hill’ is more similar to the one given in DLT.

3.4. Southern Siberian Languages: Tuv. *kır* (~ *kırı* ~ *kırılaiñ*) 1. 1) *kubtuñ kırı* ‘side of the cube’ 2) mountainous, hilly area 3) surface, plane; high land *çer kırı* ‘earth’ 2. *kırında*, *kırında*: *orus dil kırında nom* ‘book in Russian’ etc.; Tuv. *hır* (~ *tū*:) ‘mountain’, *hırlar* ‘chain of mountains’ (Oyr. *kır* I 1. side, edge; joint 2. riflings (of a gun); *kır* II 1. mountain, chain of mountains 2. hilly, flat area; back of mountain); Khak. *hır* I 1. side; border *stol hırı* ‘side of the table’ 2. riflings (of a gun) 3. roof; *hır* II ‘mountain, high hill, back of mountain, hill *hır tag*; Alt. *kır* I 1. side, the sewn side (cf. Orkh. T. *kırğaglıg*) 2. side, end 3. riflings (of a gun); *kır* II 1. mountain, chain of mountains 2. hilly area (Alt. *kırılai*- I ‘go up, climb a mountain’, Khak. *hırılai*- I id.); Tel. *kır* ‘hill’, Tof. *kır* [*kırı*] 1. side 2. the edge of a knife 3. chain of mountains.

The meanings ‘riflings (of a gun)’, ‘knife-edge’ and ‘roof’ are new in this group.

3.5. Chuvash: *hěr*, *hěrě* ( *hěrrě*, Fedetov I 1996) 1. side *virman hěrě* ‘the side of a forest, *śır hěrě* ‘cliff, side of a cliff’ 2. side, edge *păr hěrě* ‘The side of an ice’ 3. bank, side *Atăl hěrě* ‘bank of İdil river’. PreT -*d*-, -*d* are represented by -*r*-, -*r* in Chuvash, so Räsänen thinks that there is a relation between *hěrě* and *kıdıg* ‘side’ (1968). It can be considered

that Chuv. *hěr* might have developed from PreT *kır*, and *hěřě* might have developed from PreT *kıdıg*; however, anaptyxis is a characteristic of this language.

3.6. Fu-Yü Kyr. *GĪR* ‘hill’ (cf. *kĭr* ‘chain of mountains’).

#### 4. Meanings of *Kır*

When the examples above are taken into consideration, *kır* can be divided into two groups of meaning. Geographical formations take place in the first group; The metaphoric or figurative concepts related to these geographical formations are included in the second group.

4.1. Names of Geographical Formations: The elevations like isolated *mountains* and *hills*; *chains of mountains*; *flat lands*, *high flat lands with stones*; *sides*, *edges*, *shores*, *banks*; *dams*.

4.2. Names Related to the Names of Geographical Formations

*side* (geometry), *pole* (physics); *border*, *line*; *backbone*; *wild*; *grave*; others (*sky*; *the dawn*; *riflings*, etc.).

4.3. The answer to the question whether these *kırs* are different words or there is an extension of meaning cannot be answered easily because the meanings, *height*, *flat land*, and *side/edge* have always been together in the old and modern sources, and they have always been complicated. The same complication can also be recognized in other words related to *kır*.

As a result, the following relations of meaning can be mentioned when it is thought that the meanings given above have aroused because of the extension of a basic meaning:

4.3.1. *Kır* in Turkic language and dialects is synonymous with OT *tag* ‘mountain’ and *töpö* ‘hill’. Geographically, the concepts ‘mountain’ and ‘hill’ cannot always easily be differentiated. *Mountain* is “high from the ground about a couple of hundred meters and it is situated on a high, broad area with its steepy slopes; *hill*, however, is generally not so high as mountain, it is mostly alone, and its slopes are not so steepy those of a mountain’s” (Türkçe Sözlük, TDK, 1998). Therefore, it

is natural to think that the concepts 'mountain' and 'hill' are represented by *kır*.

4.3.2. Mountains may be isolated, in chains, or together with regard to their shapes. Clauson believes that *kır* is an isolated mountain. But *kır* also refers to chains of mountains in some Turkic languages. The concept 'chain of mountains' can be expressed by the plural suffix added to *kır*.

It is common to establish similarities between the parts of the body and geographical formations. So Kzx. *kır arka* with its meaning 'vertebra' is related to the 'spinal cord' in human body because the bones in the spinal cord are joint together like 'a chain of mountains' (cf. DLT *owrug* ~ *ograg*, *ogrug* 1. the joint point of the bones, the point where the spinal cord is connected with the neck, 2. the slope and finishing point of the mountain).

4.3.3. Although *kır* means 'height' in most Turkic languages and dialects, it is used to mean *gır* 'flat land, land with stones' in Turkmen, which is thought to be a bridge between Kypchak and Oghuz languages. It is noticeable that *kır* means 'a flat land' in Turkish, Gagauz and Nogay languages. The word also refers to 'flat land out of the city' in Kazax.

It is a geographical feature of the mountains to be rocky, with forests and stones. For this reason, a similarity, even mixing can be seen among the concepts *mountain*, *rock*, *stone*, and *forest*. Yak. *tia* refers to 'forest', whereas, it refers to 'mountain' in CT (cf. Yak. *küöh tia* 'green forest'). *Kaya* 'rock' means mountain in Dolgan. T. *dağ taş* (lit. 'mountain and stone', 'all around, everywhere' etc.) refers to the relation between the concepts 'mountain and rock'. The allusion *taş bağırlı dağlar* 'the mountains with bosoms of stones' also shows that mountains are generally stony geographical formations. The meaning 'hill with stones' in Turkmen is related to the mentioned feature. In almost every language it is possible to recognize such features as in Turkic languages (cf. Eng. *The Rocky Mountains* ~ *The Rockies*', Per. *Jabal-i Sang* 'The Mountain of Stone' etc.).

In the expression *el tutsık yer ötüken yış ermiş* (KT-S4) 'the place that will govern the country is the forest of Ötüken Mountain', *yış*



4.5. The words *kır* might be reduced to three as *height*, *flat land*, *side* and thought that they are only homonyms whose meanings interchanged later. However, it is not a strong possibility.

CT, as the communication language of nomadic steppe culture, which has always been mixed with nature, has also a rich terminology of toponomy. Geographical formations like ‘height, slope, hollow, plain, etc.’ are given in detail. In these terms ‘mountainous height’ referring to CT *yış*, *tag*, *kır*, etc., should be different from each other but in complementary distribution. *Yış*, which is also found in Orkhon Inscriptions, is used to refer to ‘mountain forest’ by Tekin (1967), Clauson (1972) and Berta (2004) (see BK S-4 *Ötüken yışda yeg idi yok ermiş*). In addition to their formations, mountains are also different in their flora. *Yış* must have been referring to mountainous forests or forests on mountains, but *kır* must be referring to heights with stones, rocks, and flat lands (cf. CC *yış* ‘untreated open field’). Finally, *tag* might refer to ‘forest’, like *yış*, or without forest, like *kır*.

### 5. Derivations of *Kır*

Many morphemes can be found related to the geographical term *kır* in both old and modern sources. These morphemes are shown in the following table with their allophones:

|              | suffixes   | meanings                              |
|--------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Kır</i> + | <i>-a</i> , <i>-aç</i> , <i>-ag/ğ</i> , <i>-an/ñ</i> , -         | hill, mountain, chain of mountains,   |
|              | <i>at</i> , <i>-ça</i> , <i>-da</i> , <i>-gag</i> , -            | peak; side, edge, bank; border; field |
|              | <i>gak</i> , <i>-gi</i> , <i>-i</i> , <i>-ig</i> , <i>-m</i> , - | (to plant), steppe, high ground;      |
|              | <i>ıy</i> , <i>-ka</i> , <i>-lañ</i> etc.                        | unproductive land; corner, hill,      |
|              |  | backbone, dawn etc.                   |

When all the derivations are taken into consideration, it is not possible to classify them according to ‘meaning criterion’. The different suffixes may derive words in the same sense whereas words derived by same suffixes may have different meanings. For example, *kırgak*, *kırıy*,

*kıra* in Uzbek all refer to 'side'. Similarly, *kıra*, as *gıra*, refers to 'side' in Turkmen, but the same word refers to 'field to plant' in Tuvinian

The most common words related to *kır* are as follows:

5.1. *kıyır* ~ *kırıy*: This morpheme is generally found in Kypchak languages: Kzx. *kıyır* 1. far (away) *kıyır şığıs* 'Far East' 2. end, side; Kkp. *kıyır* id. *uşı kıyırı çok dala* 'a very broad steppe whose end cannot be seen'; Nog. *kıyır* ~ *kırıy* id.; Kyr. *kıyır* 1. side, end, border 2. relatives; Krch.Blk. *kıyır* 1.end, extremity *bir kıyırından bir kıyırına* 'from one end to the other end' 2. fur cord 3. border, line *kralnı cerini kıyırları* 'the borders of the country' 4. side *kıyır-buçhak* 'every nook and cranny'; Tat. *kırıy* 1. 1) side, edge; end 2) side, edge, board 2. math. side (cf. *kırın* 'curved, bent'); Bash. *kıyır* (~ *kıyırılık*) 'the side of bread'; Kar. H. T. *kırıy* 1. side 2. border, end, corner, 3. side, surface; Kar. K. *qırıy* (~ *kırıy* ~ *kıyır* ~ *kırıy* I) id.; Uzb. *kırıy* id.

It is interesting that *kıyır* doesn't have the meanings of 'height' and 'flat land' in the examples, except Karaim Kırım dialect.

The common meaning of *kır* and *kıyır* is 'side, edge'. The meaning 'far (away)', which *kır* is not used in this sense, is an extension of meaning. It cannot be said that *kır* is diphthongized as *kıyır* because there is not any phonetic reason to explain the diphthongization.

*Kıyır* (~ *kırıy*) is similar to T. *kıyı* (< OT *kıdıg*), but it is not found in modern Kypchak languages. Although Räsänen thinks that there is a relation between *kıyır* and *kırıy* and *kıdıg* (1968), it is difficult to find a phonetic relation between *kırıy* and *kıdıg* for *ş/z* languages.

5.2. *Kıra*: This word was first found in the law documents of Uygur language. *Kıra* means 'treated field' in these documents: *iç kırata sekiz sık yer* 'eight close places in the inner field' (DTS 1969).

*Kıra* has been preserved with different meanings as *kır* in modern languages: Tkm. *gıra* 1. side, end *kagızıñ gırası* 'side of the paper' 2. side, edge, shore *deñzin qırası* 'shore of the sea Uzb. *kırta* 'side, edge' (Ähmädcanov 1931); N. Uyg. *kıra* 1. border, line 2. slope 3. steppe, high ground; Alt. *kıra* 'field, germinated field' (krş. *kıraçı* 'farmer', *kırala-* 'to farm'), (Oyr. *kıra* 'field, treated field'); Khak. *hıra* (~ *tarlag*) id.; Tel. *kıra* 'field', Tuv. *kıra* id. *Kıra* has the same meaning with *kıran*

in Anatolian dialects in the geographical names as in *Kıradağ* (Batman) (see DS VIII 1993).

The meanings 'plain' and 'side, edge' are more often found in the sources. *Kıra* is close to T. *gece* 'night' (<< \**kê:ç-e*), *yana* 'side' (< *yan-a*), *göze* (< *köz-e*) 'source of water'.

5.3. *Kırañ/Kıran*: In Anatolian Turkish dialects *kıran* is used with the following meanings 1. side, end, edge, shore 2. ridge of a mountain, hill, slope 3. plain, flat land without plants on top of a mountain 4. path on the ridge of the mountain 5. foot of a mountain 6. barren land 7. a place overgrown with rushes 8. the border between two fields 9. horizon (cf. Chuv. *pělēt hěrrě* id.) and with the allomorphs, *kılan*, *kıra*, *kırağ*, *kırağı*, *kırak*, *kırah*, *kıramık*, *kırancık*, *kırata*, *kırav*, *kıravga*, *kıravka*, *kıraş*, *kırgı* (see DS VIII 1993).

*Kırañ* is seen as the allomorphs *kırağ*, *kırak* in Old Anatolian Turkish texts. In TS IV it is cited as 1. side, edge, border, end, bank, surroundings: *su kırañı* 2. horizon, and *kıran* III is defined as 'each of the sheets of wood in a rice field'. Therefore, this meaning should be taken into consideration with *kırañ*.

*Kırañ ~ kıran* can also be found in the geographical names in Anatolia: *Kıran Tepesi* (Simav), *Kıran* (Kaz Mountain), *Kıran Yayla* (Uludağ), *Dağ Tarla Kıran Tepesi* (Karabük), *Kıran Dağları* (Gökova) etc. Although *kırañ* is not commonly seen in Turkic languages, it is used in Tkm. *gırañ* 'corner'; Kzx. *kırañ* 'a little high hill' (cf. *kırat* 'small mountain, hill'); Kyr. *kırañ* (~ *kır* id.) 1. ridge of the mountain 2. hilly steppe 3. side 2. a surface in geometry (Yudahin 1988).

All the examples given above support the view that *kırañ* and *kır* are related, and the semantic connection is obvious.

{-Añ} attaches to nouns to form adjectives or nouns: DLT *çalañ* (< *çal-añ*, cf. TS *çal* 1. variegated, mixed white and black 2. grey) 'a barren land without any plant which seems to be very dark as it was burnt' (Atalay III 1986: 371); Kzx. *tozañ* (< *toz -añ*) 'dust, soil'.

In addition to these examples, there is a semantic relation and morphological similarity between *kırañ* and DS II, TS I *beleñ* (~ *belen* ~ *bileñ*) 1. backbone 2. hill, high land 3. high passage as the names of

geographical formations. In both words it can be recognized that there is {-Añ}. It is also a possible development in the words such as *kira-ñ* < *kir-a* < *kir* (cf. *otuñ* ‘wood’, *köluñ* ‘the pond where birds land on’, see *kirłañ*).

#### 5.4. *Kirgag*, *kirgāk*; *kirag*, *kirak*; *kirig*, *kirık*

5.4.1. *Kirgag* was first seen in Orhon Inscriptions with its adjective forming suffix: *kirgaglıg* ‘hemmed, bordered (a garment)’ (BK N-11). *Kirgag* takes place as ‘the selvages of a garment and its edge’ in DLT.

*Kirga-g* < *kir-ga-* < *kir* (cf. Chag. *sayga-* < (?) *say-ga-* ‘to spend money’ (Eckmann 1966: 68, cf. OT *kūke-* ‘to gain fame, reputation’, *emge-* ‘to be distressed’ etc.). Clauson says that “there is an obvious connection with Chag. *kirgag* and *kirıg/ kirık (kiruk)* ‘broken’ which seems to be the secondary form of *kıdıg* (1972)”.

The same word is also found in Chagatay languages: Eastern T-E *kirgāk*, Uzb. *kirgāk* ~ *kirkak* ‘side, border’ (Gabain 1945); N. Uyg. *kirğāk*, *kirğık* (~ *kır*) 1. side, end 2. side, shore; Yellow Uyg. *kirgāk* ‘edge’.

5.4.2. TS *kirağ* ~ *kirak* (~ *kirañ/kiran*) ‘side, border, end, etc.’; LChag. *kirag* ‘side, edge, flank, hedge, border’; Rylands IKT *kirag* ‘beach’; Az. *girag* 1. side ‘table, wood, book, etc.’ 2. side, beach, border 3. stranger; Khal. *kirāg* ‘side, border, line; flank’. Doerfer&Tezcan suggest that the word in Khalaj is the borrowed form of Az. *girag* (<< OT *kirgag*) (1980).

*Kirağ* and *kirak* might have developed from *kirañ* (cf. T. *denk* << OT *teñ*)

5.4.3. *Kirig*: it is seen in the *il kirıgı* compound ‘the city border’ in the royal decree of Toktamış Khan (1393) (see Özyetgin 1996: 105). In addition, in some texts written in Armenian Kypchak, the variations of *hırıg* ‘mountain, side, border’ can be found (see *tag hırıg*, *tag hırıgı*, *hırıg uçu*, *hırıg uç*).

Clauson believes that *kırıġ/kırık* ‘side, border, shore’, which seem to be related with the verb *kır-*, and *kıraġ/ kırak* with the meaning ‘desert without water and not suitable to plant’ is the Turkic variation of Arabic *qaraq/qariq* ‘plain, flat land’ (1972). The alternations *kırıġ ~ kırık*, *kıraġ ~ kırak* are the results of indecision of *-q ~ -ġ* and *-k ~ -g* in Chagatay. Yak. *kıru* (~ *kitu* ‘side, border’) 1. border, end; the side of anything *kub uon ikki kıruta* ‘a cube has twelve sides’ 2. far (away), remote place, border *kıru sir* ‘a far place’; Dol. *kıru* id.; Khak. *ħırıg* id.; Chuv. *hěřě* id. (cf. DLT *kıđıg* ‘side, border, shore’).

It is already known that PT /d/ corresponds to /t/ in Yakut, so it can be said that *kitu* ‘side, border, etc.’ has been derivated from PT *kıdıg*.

5.5. *Kırlaň/kırlan*: Tuv. *kırlaň* (~ *kır*) ‘chain of low mountains, mountain range 2. side, border; Khak. *ħırlaň* ‘small mountain, hill’; Tel. *kırlan* ‘hill, small hill’; Alt. *kırlaň* 1. mountainous land; hill 2. a place difficult to reach.

Barutcu-Özönder suggests that this morpheme, *kırlaň*, which is basically found in Siberian languages, should be considered as *kır alaň* with the meaning ‘the ridge of little mountain, hill, mountainous land, field’ (1996: 70). It is possible to think of a development such as *kır -la-ň* < *kır -la-* < *kır* (cf. *kıraň*).

5.6. There are other words related to *kır* in old and modern sources: Kzx. *kırka* ‘hill’; Kzx. *kırat* ‘hill; upward’; Bar. Tat. *kırda* ‘flat, plain land’, Tat. *kıraç* (~ *sırı*) ‘hill’, Bash. *kıras* id. (cf. T. *kıraç* ‘dry, unproductive land’), Yak. *kırtas* ‘hill’, Yak., Dol. *kırdal* id. etc. In all these words it is possible to recognize the basic meanings of *kır*.

## 6. *Kır* and Its derivations in other languages

6.1. In Altaic Languages: *Kır*, with the same form and meaning, takes place in ‘Altaic languages’. Doerfer states that *kır* can be found as *kira*, *k’ira*, *kır<sup>ä</sup>*, *ħiara* (< ProT or PreT *kırǎ*) in Mongol, and Mongolian borrowings as *kira*, *kiragin*, *kirgin*, *k’eran*, *kirani*, *k’erani*, *k’eragin*, *keran*, *kerag*, *kiron*, *ker*, *kira* in Tungus (1967). Räsänen; however, says that *kira* is a Turkic borrowing in Mongolian (1968); Clauson, too,

suggests that *kira* is a Turkish borrowing in Mongolian and Persian (1972).

Mo. *hil* 'border, frontier' seems to be related to *kır* (cf. *hil hamgaalagç* 'border guardian').

Tung.-Man. *kira* I, *kiri*, *kiryi*, *kirin*, *kiru*, *kirun*, *kirıg*, *kirag*, *kiran* etc. 1. side, edge 2. surface, side 3. side; corner 4. peak of mountain etc. (Tsintsius 1975). These forms, and meanings are very close to those in Turkic languages.

Kalm. *kir<sup>ä</sup>* 'greenness on the mountain' [*kira*, *kiru* 'ridge of mountain; flat, plain land with wood; side', T. *kır* id.] (Ramstedt 1935).

Kor. *kjel* 'wave', 'piece of (a tree, stone, etc.)', it might also have the meanings 'line, ridge, side, beach' (for more info see Doerfer 1967: 568).

6.2. Ural Languages: in Cheremish, which is one of the Ugor, languages, *ir* 'open country, steppe' is a borrowing from Chuvash *ir'* (Räsänen 1968).

6.3. Persian Languages: In Old Persian, Pehlevi language, *grīwag* [*glywk'* | Per. *girīwa*] 'hill; ridge (of a mountain)' (Kenzie 1971) seems to have a relation with *kır*.

*Kır* in Persian takes place as a Turkic borrowing in *kır isfahsālār* 'border castle guardian, border guardian' (Doerfer 1967), (cf. T. *kır*, Caferoğlu 1943).

Per. *kerān*, *kerāne* (~ *kenār*, *kenāre* id.) is very similar to Turkic *kiran* and *kiran* means 1. side, border 2. limit, bound 3. end 4. beach 5. corner (seclusion) in Persian (see Mu'in 1371: 2930).

"*Kerane* is the name of a big 'bird' .... and it is called the bird of *boyunburan* in Turkic" (see Şükun 1996). So, *kiran* is the general name for 'falcons, eagles' in Turkic languages. It can be said to be a remarkable similarity (cf. DLT *kırguy*, *karguy* 'hawk'; Kalm. *kirγū*, *kirγū* id.).

6.4. Russian: It is considerable to see the phonetic and semantic similarity between *kır*, *kiran* and Rus. *gran'* (*granitsa*) 1. border, line 2. surface, side of surface'.

### Conclusion

*Kır* and its derivations can be found in almost all Turkic languages as well as peripheral languages as Fu-Yü Kirgiz, Karaim, Dolgan and in other ‘Altaic languages’. The confusion of form and meaning is related to the fact that the derivations of *kır* have had multiple meanings and forms since the most ancient times.

It is also possible to come across some words related to *kır* and its derivations in other language families. Therefore, *kır* is one of the language materials used by the *Nostratic theory*.

In addition to macro linguistic and Nostratic theory, *kır* and its derivations have been the examples of *wandervorts* from ancient times to the present.

### Abbreviations

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Alt. (Oyr.) | Altay                |
| Az.         | Azeri                |
| Bar. Tat.   | Baraba Tatar         |
| Bash.       | Bashkir              |
| BK          | Bilge Kagan          |
| CC          | Codex Cumanicus      |
| cf.         | compare              |
| Chag.       | Chagatay             |
| Chuv.       | Chuvash              |
| CT          | Common Turkic        |
| DLT         | Divânü Lügâti't-Türk |
| Dol.        | Dolgan language      |
| DS          | Derleme Sözlüğü      |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| DTS         | Drevne Tyurkskiĥ Slovar´                  |
| E           | East                                      |
| Eastern T-E | An Eastern Turkic English Dictionary      |
| e.g.        | for example                               |
| Eng.        | English                                   |
| etc.        | et cetera                                 |
| Fu-Yü Kyr.  | Fu-Yü Kyrgyz language                     |
| Gag.        | Gagauz                                    |
| hap. leg.   | hapax legomenon                           |
| HSh         | Hüsrev ü Şirin                            |
| i.e.        | ‘that is’                                 |
| id.         | same                                      |
| Kalm.       | Kalmuk                                    |
| Kar. H.T.K. | Karaim Halich, Trakay an Crimean dialects |
| KB          | Kutadgu Bilig                             |
| Khak.       | Khakas                                    |
| Khal.       | Khalaj                                    |
| Kkp.        | Karakalpak                                |
| Kmk.        | Kumuk                                     |
| Kor.        | Korean                                    |
| Krch.Blk.   | Karachay-Balkar                           |
| Krm. Tat.   | Kırım Tatar                               |
| KT          | Köl Tigin                                 |
| Tuh.        | Et-Tuhfetü’z-Zekiyye                      |
| Kyp.        | Kypchak                                   |
| Kyr.        | Kyrgyz                                    |
| Kzx.        | Kazax                                     |
| LChag.      | Lügat-i Çaġatayî                          |
| lit.        | literally                                 |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| mat.         | Mathematics (and geometry)             |
| Mo.          | Mongolian                              |
| N            | North                                  |
| N.Uyg.       | New Uygur                              |
| Nog.         | Nogay                                  |
| Orkh. T.     | Orkhon Turkic                          |
| OT           | Old Turkic                             |
| Oyr. (Altay) | Oyrot                                  |
| Per.         | Persian                                |
| PreT         | Pre-Turkic                             |
| ProT         | Proto Turkic                           |
| Rus.         | Russian                                |
| Ryland's IKT | Ryland's Interlinear Koran Translation |
| S            | South                                  |
| T.           | Turkish                                |
| Tat.         | Tatar                                  |
| TDK          | Türk Dil Kurumu                        |
| Tel.         | Teleut                                 |
| Tkm.         | Turkmen                                |
| Tof.         | Tofalar                                |
| TS           | Tarama Sözlüğü                         |
| Tung-Man.    | Tunguz-Manchu                          |
| Tuv.         | Tuvanian                               |
| Y. Uyg.      | Yellow Uygur                           |
| Yak.         | Yakut                                  |

### Bibliography

- Afanas'yev, P. S., L. N. Haritonov, Nuuççalı-Sahalı Tıld'ıt, Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya İzdatel'stvo, Moskva 1968.
- Ähmädcanov, Umär, Burhan İlyazov, Özbekce-Rusca Lugat, Öznäşr Taşkänt 1931.
- Ahmerov, Kk.Z., T.G. Başıyev, A.M. Bikmurzin vb., Başkirsko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1958.
- Asanov, Ş. A., A. N. Garkavets, S. M. Useyinov, Kırımtatarca-Ruşça Lugat, 'Radnyans'kaya şkola', Kiyev 1988.
- Atalay, Besim, Et-tuhfe-üz-"ye fi'l Lûgat-it Türkiyye, İstanbul 1945.
- , Divanü Lûgat-it Türk "Tercümesi I, Ankara 1985.
- , Divanü Lûgat-it Türk Dizini "Endeks" IV, Ankara 1986.
- Bammatov, Z.Z., Russko-Kımıkskiy Slovar', Moskva 1960.
- Äzizbäyov, H. Ä., Azärbaycanca-Rusca Lügät, Azärbaycan Dövlät Näşriyyatı, Bakı 1965.
- Barutcu-Özönder, Sema F., ÖAlı Şır Neväyi Muhäkemetü'l-Lugateyn, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1996.
- Baskakova, N. A., T. M. Toşçakova, Oyrotsko-Russkiy Slovar', OGİZ, Moskva 1947.
- Baskakov, N.A., Nogayskiy Yazık i Ego Dialekti, İzdatel'stvo Akademi Nauk SSSR, Moskva 1940.
- , Hakassko-Russkiy Slovar', Ministerstvo Kul'turı SSR, Moskva 1953.
- , Karakalpakşa Rusşa Sözlük, Şet häm milliy sözlükler mämlket baspası, Moskva 1958.
- , Orus-Altay Sözlük, Sovetskiy Entsiklopediya İzdatel'stvozi, Moskva 1964.
- Baskakov, N.A., A. Zajaczkowski ve S. M. Szapszal, Karaimsko-Russko-Pol'skiy Slovar', Moskva 1974.
- Baskakov, N.A., B.A. Karriyev ve M.Ya. Hamzayev, Türkmensko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1968.
- Baskakov, N.A., N.P. Golubeva-A.A. Kamileva vb., Türkçe-Ruşça Sözlük, Moskova 1977.
- Battal, Aptullah, İbnü Mühennâ Lûgati, İstanbul 1934.
- Borovkov, A.K., S.F. Akabirov vb., Uzbeksko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva.

- Caferoğlu, Ahmet, Abu-Hayyan: Kitab al-idrak li-lisan al-Atrak, İstanbul 1931.
- , Anadolu Ağızlarından Toplamalar, Bürhaneddin Basımevi, İstanbul 1943.
- Ceylan, Emine, Çuvaşça Çok Zamanlı Ses Bilgisi, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1997.
- Clauson, G., An Etymological Dictionary of Pre-Thirteenth-Century Turkish, Oxford 1972.
- Dankoff, R. and J. Kelly, Mahmud Al Kaşgarî Compendium of the Turkic Dialects, Cambridge, 1985.
- Dmitriyeva, L. V., Yazık Barabinskiñ Tatar, Akademiya Nauk SSR, Leningrad 1981.
- Doerfer, Gerhard, Semih Tezcan, Wörterbuch des chaldsch (dialekt von charrab), Budapest 1980.
- Eckmann, Janos, Chagatay Manual, Indiana University, Mouton and Co., The Hague, The Netherlands 1966.
- , Middle Turkic glosses of the Rylands interlinear Koran, Budapest 1976.
- Erdal, Marcel, Old Turkic Word Formation 1, 2, Ottoharrassowitz ·Wiesbaden 1991.
- Fedetov, M. R., Etimologičeskiy Slovar' Çuvaşskogo-Yazıka, Çuvaşskiy Gosudarstvennyy İstitut Gumanitarnıñ Nauk, Çeboksarı 1996.
- Gabain, A., Özbekische grammatik, Otto Harrasowitz, Leipzig und Wien 1945.
- Ganiyev, F.A., Russko-Tatarskiy Slovar', Moskva 1984.
- Glovkina, O.V., M.M. Osmanov, N.T. Denisova vd., Tatarsko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1966.
- Grønbech, Kaare, Komanisches Wörterbuch, Kopenhagen 1942.
- Gülensoy, Tuncer, Türkçe Yer Adları Kılavuzu, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1995.
- Gürsoy-Naskali, Emine, M. Duran, Altayca-Türkçe Sözlük, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1999.
- Hamzayev, M.Y., S. Altayev vd., Türkmen Diliniñ Sözlüğü, Aşgabad 1962.

- Jarring, Gunnar, Central Asian Turkic Place Names-Lop Nor and Tarım Area-, Stockholm 1997.
- Keñesbayev, İ.K., Qazaq Tiliniñ Tüsindirme Sözdigi I, Alma-Ata, 1959.
- Kenzie, Mac D. N., A Concise Pahlavi Dictionary, Oxford University Press, London 1971.
- Kırkılıç, Ahmet, Lehçetü'l-Lügat, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1999.
- Kibirova, Ş., Yu. Tsunvazo, Uygursko-Russkiy, İzdatel'stvo Akademi Nauk Kazahskoy SSR, Alma-Ata 1961.
- Koç, Kenan, A. Bayniyazov, V. Başkapan, Kazak Türkçesi Türkiye Türkçesi Sözlüğü, Akçağ Yayınları, Ankara 2003.
- Korkina, Ye. İ., Koryakina, K.N. vb., Yakutsko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1972.
- Luvsandendev, A., Mongol'sko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1957.
- Magrfova, Z. M., Tolkoviy Slovar' Uzbekskogo Yazıka, İzdatel'stvo II "Russkiy Yazık", Moskva 1981.
- Malov, S.E., Yazık Jeltih Uygurov, Akademiya Nauk Kazahskoy SSR, Alma-Ata 1957.
- Mardkowicz, Aleksander, Karaj Sez Bitigi, Luck, 1935.
- Mämmädoğ, Nadir, Azärbaycan Yer Adları, Azärbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, Bakı 1993.
- Mu'in, Muhammed, Ferheng-i Farsî 3, Moessese-i Entesharät-i Emir-i Kebir, Tehran 1371.
- Nadelyayev, V.M., D. Nasilov, E.R. Tenışev, A.M. Şçerbak, Drevnetyurkskiy Slovar', Leningrad 1969.
- Nasirov, D.S., K.U. Ubaydullayev, Karakalpaksko-Ruskiy Slovar', Moskva, 1958.
- Olgun, İbrahim, Draşan, Cemşid, Farsça-Türkçe Sözlük, Ankara Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Yayınları, Ankara 1966.
- Öztürk, Müresel, Derya Örs, Burhân-ı Katı, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 2000.
- Özyetgin, Melek, Altın Ordu, Kırım ve Kazan Sahasına Ait Yarlık ve Bitiklerin Dil ve Üslup İncelemesi, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1996.

- Palmer, E.H., M.A., Concise Dictionary of the Persian Language, Ninth Impression, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & CO., LTD, London, 1919.
- , Concise Dictionary English-Persian, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & CO., LTD, London, 1920.
- Ramstedt, G. J., Kalmückisches wörterbuch, Suomalais-Ugrilainen Seura, Helsinki 1935.
- Räsänen, Martti, Versuch eines etymologischen Wörterbuchs der Türkisprachen, Lexica Societatis Fenno-Ugricae, 1969.
- Rassadin, V. İ., Tofalarsko-Russkiy, Russko Tofalarskiy-Slovar', Kinijnoye İzdatel'stvo İrkutsk 1995.
- Ryumina-Sırkaşeva, L. T., (Trans: Ş. H. Akalın, C. Turgunbayev), Teleüt Ağzı Sözlüğü, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 2000.
- Shinitnikov, Boris Nikolayeviç, Kazakh-English Dictionary, Hague 1966.
- Sinor, Denis, Essays in Comparative Altaic Linguistics, Indiana University 1990.
- Skvortsova, M. İ., Çuvaşsko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1972.
- Sleptsova, P. A., Saħalı-Nuuççalı Tıld'ıt, Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya İzdatel'stvo, Moskva 1972.
- Şükûn, Ziya, Farsça-Türkçe Lügat Gencinei Güftar Ferhengi Ziya 3, MEB Yayınları, İstanbul 1996.
- Tekin, Talat, A Grammar of Orkhon Turkic, Indiana University Bloomington 1967.
- Tekin, Talat, Orhon Yazıtları, Simurg, İstanbul 1998.
- Tenişev, E.R. ve H. İ. Suyunçev, Karaçayev-Balkarsko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva 1989.
- Tenişeva, E. R., Tuvinsko-Russkiy Slovar', İzdatel'stvo Sovetskaya Entsiklopediya, Moskva 1968.
- Tryjarski, Edward, Słownik Ormiańsko-Kipezacki Tom I, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa 1968.
- Tsintsius, V. İ., Sravnitel'nyy Slovar' Tunguso-Man'çjurskih Yazıkıov I, İzdatel'stvo "Nauka", Leningrad 1975.
- Uighursko-Russkiy Slovar', Moskva, 1985.
- Yudahin, K.K., Kırgız Sözlüğü I, II, Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara 1988.

Zajączkowski, Ananiasz, La plus ancienne Version Turque du Ħusräv u Šĩrĩn de Qutb, Warszawa 1958.

Zhen-Hua, Hu, Guy Imart, Fu-Yü Gĩrgĩs: A tentative description of easternmost Turkic Language, Bloomington, Indiana 1987.

<http://www.traveljournals.net/explore/turkmenistan/locations/g/4.html>,

<http://www.indexmundi.com/zm/kz/240.html>