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ONE MORE MONGOLIAN WORD FROM THE TURKISH DICTIONARY. *URGAN* ‘A STOUT ROPE’

Turkic-Mongolian relations and the borrowings between these two language families have always been an interesting field of study for lexicographers. Even more interesting is the case of re-borrowings in these languages, e.g. the case of those Mongolian borrowings in Turkish that eventually originate from Turkic. As an example we can mention Turkish *ulus* ‘nation, people’, Chaghatai *kuduk*, etc. (cf. Old Turkic *ulus* ‘country, land’ and *kudug*). Another example, being the subject of this paper, is Turkish *urgan* ‘rope’ which goes back to classical Mongolian *urġa(n)*, cf. also Old Uighur *uruk*.

Turkic-Mongolian relations, re-borrowings, Old Uighur, Turkic, Turkish

*To my friend Marek,
who is a theorist in Turkish Etymology*

The Mongolian words in Turkish were discussed in two articles written by O.N. Tuna (1972, 1973–1975). C. Schönig (2000) added some new words into this list that Tuna made. G. Doerfer (1963–1975) discussed Turkish-Mongolian relations in his monumental study on Mongolian and Turkish in New Persian. There are sufficient data on the re-borrowed words in Turkish from Mongolian in the studies of these three researchers. I will discuss a Turkish word re-borrowed from Mongolian below.

There are two different words written as *'wrwq* in Old Uyghur texts. The first of these two words, the more common one, is *urug*, with the meaning of 'lineage, generation, seed, grain' (cf. Clauson 1972). In the texts written in runic script, there is a verb *urugsirat-* which means 'to exterminate, to deprive someone of his descendants'. The stem of this verb is known well to researchers (for the text, cf. Tekin 1968 and Ölmez 2015; for the meaning Tekin 1968: 391b; for the structure Clauson 1972: 220b and OTWF: 508).

The second word is *uruk* with the meanings 'rope' and 'lasso' (cf. BT XIII: 132; PW: 696; MW: 623c; SWTF 3: 123a).

Clauson gave two examples for this word: One is from AYS and the other one is from Kashgari. He considered *urug* to be a secondary form of *ukruk* rather than the word *uruk* ('lasso') as used in the Tuvan and Khakas language from Old Turkic (Clauson 1972: 215a-b).¹ He did not give any examples from the historical Turkic texts except those from the Old Uyghur and Kashgaris dictionary.

The texts where the word *uruk* can be seen are listed chronologically below:

amogapaş urukunuz ol üzülmâz üräk 'Amoghapaşa! Eure Schlinge ist unvergänglich, immerdar' (BT XIII: 24.1). As can be seen in this example, the Uyghur text here is a translation from Sanskrit *amogha* and *pāśa*. Here, *pāśa* is an equivalent of 'Schlinge, Fessel, Strick / a snare, trap, noose, tie, bond, cord, chain' (cf. BT XIII: 133, footnote 24.1; PW: 383a).

uruk tutmuş 'hielt ein Lasso' (AYS I: 6.1: 093).

üç yäklär maña yakın kälip bir uruk üzä boyunumın batı 'da kamen die drei Dämonen mir nahe, einer band meinen Nacken mit dem Lasso' (AYS I: 7.19: 134).

beşinç elgintä uruk tutar 'In ihrer fünften Hand hält sie ein Lasso' (BT XXIII Do96: 73, 76).

ämgänglig tınlıglar üçün uruq tuta[r elig bälgürttünüz] '[...] の苦痛もてる衆生の為に罫索手を示した。 / [...] for the suffering creatures you showed the hand which holds lasso'. (ShoRossia 3.2.2 4: 194, 195).²

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- 1 For *ukruk* s. Clauson (1972: 90b); because of limited time, I don't discuss the relation between *uruk* in Mongolian and Russian forms here; Clauson mentioned *ukruchina* according to Radloff (1899 1: 1613, s.v. *ykpyk*), s. Fasmer (1964–1971 4: 137, s.v. *укрюк*). I didn't discuss details about the topic in my *Tuwinischer Wortschatz* either (Ölmez 2007: 284–285).
 - 2 Comment: *uruq* 「繩」ここでは「罫索(わな)」に当てている。(ShoRossia: 195).

v(a)žir uruk athıg bodis(a)t(a)v ‘bodhisattva called vajra-rope (vajrapāśa)’ (BT XXVIII B139: 166).³

eliğiniztā tutyuk ol (...) *v(a)çir çakir ulatı uruk* ‘[...] long mace and lasso rope’ (AYS VII 892: 173, 188). For the Chinese text cf. Taishō 長杵鐵輪并胃索 (T 16 665: 437c02).

The word *uruk* can also be seen in Sukh. once, however the meaning is not clear here (cf. Sukh. line 32: 138–139).

On the other hand, we encounter a word *urğan* or *urқан* with a similar meaning to Old Uighur in the Ottoman language:

† *urkan* ‘urğan’ *Boynuna bir urkan dakıp gemi ardınca, gemi önünce gezdirdiler.* (Anter. XIV. 446); § *Boğazına urkan takıp asker-i ehl-i İslâm arasında gezdürüp* [...] (Rahat. XVI. 41); § *Atlar birbirlerinin kuyruklarına urkanlar ile bağı olup.* (Ev. XVII. 532). (Tarama: 3966).

According to R. Dankoff (2004: 76), this form written with ق qaf should be read as *arkan*⁴ rather than *urkan*. In Ottoman, the expected form of *urkan* is written with ğ ğayn.

As for Evliya Çelebi, the word in question is *orğan* ‘urğan’ (Dankoff 2004: 214).

In Meninski’s lexicon, which is coeval with Evliya Çelebi’s *Seyahatname*, one can see the forms *orğan* or *orğancı*:

orghan /orğan/ ‘Reftis, funis crasus, camelus; ein Sail / dicker Strick’ (Meninski 1780 col. 502).

orghanġi /orğancı/ ‘restio; ein Sailer’ (Meninski 1780 col. 502).

We encounter similar words in *Lexicon* and *Kamus-ı Türki* from the late 19th century to early 20th century:

urğan ‘a stout rope; especially, a small hawser’; *öksüz urğanı* ‘(the orphan’s rope) bindweed, bearbind, wild convolvulus.’ (Redhouse: 245a).

urğancı ‘a maker or seller of stout ropes’ (Redhouse: 245b).

urğan ‘Kalın ip, ince halat.’; *urğancı* ‘urğan denilen ince halatları yani kalın ipleri yapıp satan işçi’ (Kamus: 197b).

3 For *uruk* s. commentary AYS (VII: 215b), for *uruk* instead of 輪 *lun* should be 索.

4 For *arkan* see at below mentioned sources same as Fasmer (1964–1971), Radloff (1899).

In that case, are those words related to Mongolian? We can find the answer if we look at Lessing's dictionary:

urğa(n) (Halha *urğa*) 'a long wooden pole with a loop on the end used to catch horses'; *urğan-u mori* 'especially trained horse of an *urğaçi*' (Lessing 1960: 881a).

Conclusion

In my opinion, the word *uruk* recorded in Old Uyghur texts and *Dīwān Luġāt al-Turk*, which is one of the early Islamic texts in Turkic, was borrowed by Mongolian after the Mongol expansion. The Mongolian form *uruga(n)* was re-borrowed by Turkish as *urğan* and this word has been used as *urğan* or *urğa* in Mongolian hereafter.

The *+a(n)* seen in the Mongolian form of this word is unique to Mongolian language itself. Although the period of borrowing is different, the Mongolian word *qalbaġa(n)* borrowed from Early-Turkic **qalbaq* (spoon) can be given as an example for this phenomenon.

It is a well-known linguistic trait that the word-final *-k* in Old Turkic changes into *-g* in Mongolian (cf. Old Turkic *belek* 'gift' → Mongolian *beleg*, etc.).

Therefore, the word *urğan* used in Modern Turkish should be presented as a borrowed word from Mongolian. Interestingly, almost all of the word forms meaning 'rope; lasso' has the pattern *VrQVn ~ VrKVn* (*urğan*, *arkan*,⁵ *örken*,⁶ *argamji*⁷).

Bibliography and Abbreviations

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5 Examples for *arkan* from Turkic languages, s. Radloff (1899 1: 288, s.v. ²arkan); about Russian s. Fasmer (1964–1971 1: 86); about Turkish *urğan*, Old Turkic *uruk* see also Nişanyan (2007: 497a).

6 Clauson (1972: 225b).

7 Lessing (1960: 52a).

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