

## THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE QUALITATIVE WORDFORMS IN THE TYVAN LANGUAGE

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### ABSTRACT

Traditional grammar of the parts of speech is the “grammar of word”. It was developed on the material of Indo-European languages and therefore it cannot be completely applied to the analysis of languages of another type. In the grammar of the parts of speech, together with the classes of noun and verb, on the same bases, the classes of adjectives and adverbs are distinguished, what is impossible for the Turkic languages.

In the study of the Turkic languages the problem of the noun, adjective and adverb differentiation exists since basic works of Otto Böhtlingk and others. Most Turkic languages grammars’ traditionally describe the adjectives and adverbs as separate parts of speech. Among the specialists in Turkic philology there is no unanimous opinion to single out «adjectives».

In the Turkic languages, in particular in the Tyvan language, there are attributive wordforms that have no special markers, just the syntactic position shows the difference: “**sook** cold, frost// cold, frosty// it is cold, it is frosty”. The report presents the results of the preliminary study of the position combinations of the unmarked qualitative wordforms of the Tyvan language. Materials were taken in the republic of Tyva during the author’s field work in December 2006 and January 2007. The questionnaire was based on A.P. Volodin’s approach – the distribution of wordforms according to the functional classes: predicate (Pr), actant (Act), attribute of predicate (Atr<sub>1</sub>), attribute of actant (Atr<sub>2</sub>). The table of the calculation of possible position combinations for 100 wordforms was comprised in addition. On the hypothesis they must take positions of Pr, Act, Atr<sub>1</sub> and Atr<sub>2</sub> without their exponent alterations. As the interrogations result of 13 informants of different dialects, age and education the wordforms were distributed into 4 of 16 theoretically possible groups.

**Key Words:** the Tyvan language, the Turkic languages, the model of the grammar of wordform, the languages of the Russian Federation

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\* Participation in “ICANAS 38” is realized by means of the RFH Foundation, Project № 07-04-15094з. e-mail: arzhaanas@yahoo.com

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In the study of the Turkic languages the problem of the noun, adjective and adverb distinction exists since basic works of O. N. Böhtlingk, N.Ph. Katanov, A. N. Kononov and others. Most Turkic languages grammars' traditionally describe the adjectives and adverbs as separate parts of speech (GKLY, 1987; GSYLY, 1982; GKHY, 1975; GTY, 1961). Among the specialists in Turkic philology there is no unanimous opinion to single out "adjectives": one says that "their (adjectives'-A.S.) existence itself as independent lexico-grammatical class of nouns" gives rise to doubts (Scherbak, 1977: 108), and another's point of view is that "the absence of inflection forms, reasoned by peculiarities of the Turkic syntactic system" does not prejudice the existence of present class of words neither in modern Turkic languages nor in parent language (Kormushin, 1996; 90).

First grammar of the Tyvan language counts 10 parts of speech (Biche-ool, Iskhakov, 1949; 73). There, quality and colour-expressing attributes in possessive case were inscribed in the part about the noun. It is difficult to relate such words of Turkic family languages to definite part of speech without any context. At least in the Tyvan language. In final classical grammar of the Tyvan language Iskhakov and Palmbakh point out the absence of definite demarcation of noun and adjective (GTY, 1961; 179).

This study is based on the A.P. Volodin's model of the "grammar of wordforms". The author's approach is the distribution of wordforms according to functional classes: predicate (Pr), actant (Act), attribute of predicate (Atr<sub>1</sub>), attribute of actant (Atr<sub>2</sub>) (Volodin, 2000; 24). Here "wordform" is the "word in some grammar form (in special case – the only existing form of the word)" (LES, 1990; 470).

In the Turkic languages, in particular in the Tyvan language, there are attributive wordforms that have no special markers, just the syntactic position shows the difference. In the Tyvan-Russian dictionary the word **sook** is translated into Russian as "cold, frost//cold, frosty//it is cold, it is frosty".

Atr<sub>2</sub> **Sook** ky<sup>h</sup>sh ertken  
*sook ky<sup>h</sup>sh ert-ken*  
 cold winter pass-PTCP.PST

Atr<sub>1</sub> **Urug sook** kettingen  
*urug sook ket -tin -gen*  
 child cold wear-REFL-PTCP.PST

Act. **Sook** düzhüpen  
*sook düzh -üp -ken*  
 cold fall -PRF –PTCP.PST

Pr. Ky<sup>h</sup>sh **sook**  
 winter cold

The paper presents the results of the preliminary study of the position combinations of the unmarked qualitative wordforms of the Tyvan language. Materials were taken in the republic of Tyva during the author's field work in December 2006 and January 2007. The table of the calculation of possible position combinations for 100 wordforms was comprised in addition. On the hypothesis they must take positions of Predicate, Actant, Attribute<sub>1</sub> and Attribute<sub>2</sub> without their exponent alterations. As the interrogations result of 13 Tyvan speakers of different dialects, age and education the wordforms were distributed into 4 of 16 theoretically possible groups.

		Atr <sub>2</sub>	Atr <sub>1</sub>	Pr	Act	Result
<b>1</b>	If	+	+	+	+	?
<b>2</b>	If	+	+	+	-	?
<b>7</b>	If	+	-	+	+	?
<b>8</b>	If	+	-	+	-	?

**1. Selected wordforms determine appropriate nouns without any problem:**

**Bedik** dag  
 high mountain

**2. Attributive wordforms easily take position of the predicate:**

Dag **bedik**  
 mountain high

Here they do not change their form and do not turn themselves into predicate. It is possible to take predicate particle-dyr:

Dag **bedik**-tir.  
 mountain high=PREP

They can be found before auxiliary verbs bol-, tur- as tense indices; here attributive wordforms take position of the predicate, but not of the attribute of the predicate:

Dag **bedik** bolgan.  
*dag bedik bol-gan*  
 mountain high be.aux-PTCP.PST

Dag **bedik** bolur.  
*dag bedik bol-ur*  
 mountain high be.aux-PTCP.FUT

**3. The wordforms take position of the attribute of the predicate not changing its form:**

Tuktu **bedik** tut.  
*tuk-tu bedik tut*  
 flag-ACC high hold

In this position it is important to have in view the meaning of the attributive wordform.

The adverbial particle -dyr and predicate particle –dyr should be distinguished:

Tuktu **bedidir** tut  
*tuk-tu bedi-dir tut*  
 flag-ACC high-ADV hold

Tuk **bedik-tir**.  
*tuk bedik=tir*  
 flag high=PRED

**4. Actant position of the attributive wordforms has some nuances.** Here context, frequency of use, intonation play part. Most of all, attributive wordforms in actant position are presented in Possessive case in genitive+possessive construction:

Dagnyng **bedii**  
*dag-nyng bedi(k)-i*  
 mountain-GEN high-3POSS

As far as the wordform takes the position of actant it takes affixes of corresponding cases:

**Bedikti** erttim  
*bedik-ti ert-ti-m*  
 high-ACC walk\_over-PST1-1SG

Also number affix:

**Bedikter** ashtyngan  
*bedik-ter ash-tyn-gan*  
 high-PL cross-REFL-PTCP.PST

Tyvan speakers of different age differed from each other in use of wordforms in actant position. Adult speakers ask for more precise definition frequently, though they do understand the sentence. Young speakers more often use qualitative

wordforms in this position without any alterations expressing the quality of the subject/object:

**Seedeng** kel-di  
stupid come-PST1

**Seedeng-ni** kör-dü-m  
stupid-ACC see-PST1-1SG

Ool **seedeng-den** kel-di  
boy stupid-ABL come-PST1

As the result of qualitative wordforms study a special group of attributives can be distinguished in the Tyvan language together with classes of nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

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## NOTES

ABL – ablative

ACC – accusative

ADV – adverbial

aux – auxiliary

FUT – future

GEN – genitive

3POSS – possessive 3 singular

PRED – predicative

PRF – perfect

PST – past

PST1 – past (-di)

PTCP – participle

REFL – reflexive

SG – singular