Lexical and Semantic Features of Surnames of Turkish Languages

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Abstract. Notable names constitute a subsystem within the lexical system of the language. In this subsystem, the language laws are modified in a particular manner. When transitioning from one context to another, regularities emerge that are not observed in other domains. As a family name, a word may begin a life not connected to the word from which it originated and may completely sever its connection with it.

Consequently, it is challenging to ascertain the etymology of a surname, that is, to elucidate its provenance, to identify the source word, and to comprehend the processes and mechanisms that underpin its formation. Consequently, the characteristics that render the surname a valuable scientific resource also present significant obstacles to its study. It is essential to consider several political and cultural issues concerning the methods of correcting surnames in Turkic languages. It is important to note that society has become accustomed to utilizing the existing surname system as a means of expression. Therefore, any new methods proposed in this field must be based on a thorough examination of using surnames in Azerbaijan and other countries worldwide. The suggested alternative strategies should be based on understanding the concept and perception of "surname." Such issues have been the subject of research in the comparative concept of different Turkish languages.

Keywords: onomastics; personal names; surnames; anthroponyms; Turkic languagesç; Turkish language; Turkmen language; Gagauz language.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of the "surname" has undergone a highly intricate and multifaceted evolution. Scholars trace the formation of the surname back to the evolution of various linguistic categories, including nicknames, place names, professional names, and others. Over time, it evolved into a language category that distinguished family members according to the paternal line. The most prevalent method of surname formation among Azerbaijanis is adopting the paternal grandfather's name as the basis for the surname. Subsequently, assuming one's parents' surname has become prevalent.

Linguists state that no such word category exists in the Turkish language. However, the concept of the surname and the European experience are also known to them. In Turkish, a method prevalent in Eastern countries is employed to determine the position of the surname. This method entails processing a person's name with the incorporation of nicknames. The decision to incorporate a nickname into a person's name is a matter of personal preference. The study of genealogy is inextricably linked to the naming conventions of a given generation. One of the methods of expression within this category predicates the use of nicknames as surnames, which is a relatively simplified approach. Unfortunately, those who adhere to this practice frequently have to alter the root or the suffix of the terms they designate as surnames. Some argue that using the term 'surname' instead of the original word and the subsequent invention of new 'surnames' is not justifiable. The surname category was introduced and disseminated within society due to the necessity for specific systematic organization. The concept of "surname" is an example of "purism," or the adherence to traditional forms, which can be seen as a form of following fashion.

Therefore, assuming that the new surname term is an appropriate substitute for the old one is erroneous.

Furthermore, the spelling of the surname itself is erroneous. The term "family" is a noun and is not used attributively. Its typical usage in conjunction with a noun is in the form of a surname.

The study of surnames in the context of Azerbaijani linguistics commenced in the latter decades of the XX century. In this regard, author [1] is worthy of mention. The article demonstrates that, even though the study of surnames in the Azerbaijani language has both scientific-theoretical and practical importance, they have not been the subject of specialized research.

The author [2] deems viewpoint [1] inadequate for surname studies. As in Russian, Azerbaijani surnames are formed from names. The suffix -ov is added to words ending in a consonant, and the suffix -ecchi is added to words ending in a vowel. He proposes dividing Azerbaijani surnames into non-standard (non-derivative) surnames and standard (derivative, corrective) surnames.

The emergence or spread of surnames among the Turkmen people is closely related to the broader trends of surname formation and dissemination observed in Azerbaijan. In other words, as in Azerbaijan, the formation and spread of surnames in Turkmenistan occurred as a result of the political and social influence of the Russian state and contact with the Russian-speaking population. The means of creating surnames and the extent to which they are used shape the specific forms of this influence. The processing of surnames among the Gagauz was shaped by this nation's political and historical relations with other peoples within the territory of the former USSR and beyond.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Several distinctive features characterize the formation of surnames in the Turkic language. Two distinct trends are apparent. The Turks (Ottomans) who inhabited the territory of Türkiye began to employ the appellations prevalent in the East, including in Türkiye, about familial status. Those of Turkic origin who had taken up residence outside the territory of Türkiye (for example, the Meskhetian Turks) employed the tools and models for creating prevalent surnames in the regions where they had settled. The present study will focus exclusively on surname-type words used in Türkiye. Historians divide the history of using surnames in the Azerbaijani language into two principal phases:

1. Surnames are used to identify individuals.

2. The widespread adoption of surnames.

The initial period, spanning from the late XIX century to the 1930s, is characterized by the emergence of using surnames for individuals. The second stage commenced after the previous century and continued until the advent of Azerbaijan's independence. At this juncture, the advent of a new phase becomes evident. During this period, Azerbaijan displayed a bias in implementing reforms about surnames. This tendency manifests in two ways: first, by replacing suffixes of Russian origin in Azerbaijani surnames with suffixes from the Azerbaijani language (for example, Rahimov → Rahimli), and second, by using suffixes derived from personal names. Secondly, the use of fictitious nicknames and so forth in place of surnames derived from personal names.

Most literature on Azerbaijani surnames focuses on the methods of expressing individuals with three-membered constructions. Such constructions constitute the majority of those observed in the Azerbaijani language.

The most significant aspect of surnames is the structure of the surnames themselves, which determines how the suffixes are formed. The second important issue pertains to the semantics underlying the formation of surnames. For a name to qualify as a surname, it must meet the following requirements: the basis of the surname may be either a male ancestor (father, grandfather) or a toponym.

In all cases, a single word constituted the basis of the surname. However, while these signs are the primary indicators of Azerbaijani surnames, they are not the sole indicators. In the Azerbaijani surname system, single and double surnames play a role. Despite their limited prevalence, these forms have not received significant attention from linguists thus far.

One should note that the distinction between single-family and double-family surnames does not solely rely on the number and quantity of components. The working conditions of these individuals differ. The primary focus of mono-familyism is the expression of familial belonging. Family members may be either blood relatives or marriage relatives (e.g., husband, wife, or their children). Cohabitation is predicated on the kin-

ship relationship between individuals (husband and wife) united in one family through marriage. Researchers initially derived this approach from the methodology employed in the Russian household. Double surnames are contingent upon the preferences of the individuals entering into marriage. However, it is also considered a favourable and recommended practice from a legal standpoint. In this context, the personal factor is determined based on the husband and wife's contacts and relations with the Russian-speaking population, their affinity for their lifestyle, and their tendency to emulate it.

The concept of cohabitation was first proposed in the Fundamentals of Marriage and Family Legislation of the Soviet Socialist Republic Union.

Given its historical and geographical context, the processing of surnames among Turkmens is analogous to that observed among Azerbaijanis. In both instances, the surnames emerged due to state policy pursued by the Russian (Soviet) state and close contact with the Russian-speaking population. It can be concluded that there is no fundamental difference between the processing of surnames in Turkmen and Azerbaijani languages. A preliminary investigation of materials related to the Turkmen language indicates this is untrue.

This study examines Turkmen language words denoting surnames using two sources. The initial data source was a list of Turkmen students who had studied at the Azerbaijan State Medical University for several years.

The material from the initial source is merely a list of names. It is impossible to make any meaningful observations based on this information. The second material category comprises a corpus of words used in speech with a specific grammatical function. Such examples carry a specific communicative load and allow us to make further observations regarding the corresponding word category. Accordingly, an attempt has been made to elucidate the terminology used to denote last names in the Turkmen language, referencing the characteristics common to both sources.

Two distinct approaches to using surnames are discernible in the contemporary Turkmen language. Firstly, surnames are formed based on Russian examples and their subsequent use in this manner. The presence of three-member constructions evidences this tendency. At this time,

the elements denoting the surname and the element denoting the patronymic are constructed based on the Russian example, with the help of suffixes of Russian origin.

Secondly, surnames are still constructed based on Russian examples, and patronymics are not employed. This may be regarded as an act of cultural nationalism.

A detailed examination of the linguistic data reveals that one of the salient characteristics of the surnames employed in the Turkmen language is the notable divergence between the etymology and connotation of the personal names they comprise, compared to those observed in the Azerbaijani language; this lends them a distinctive character. Furthermore, we can observe that the graphemes (letters) employed in the Turkmen alphabet are treated differently from those in the Azerbaijani alphabet in certain instances.

A literature review on the Turkmen language reveals that, unlike other Turkic-speaking peoples, the Turkmen have not been preoccupied with exploring new forms and methods of forming surnames. Instead, they have continued to utilize the once-accepted techniques due to historical necessity.

The principal source of information on Gagauz surnames comprises articles and scientific works on the subject. A review of the existing literature on Gagauz surnames reveals a high degree of diversity, with variations observed according to the distribution area, origin, and formation methods. The Gagauz's contact with various peoples and languages, both in the distant and recent past, especially in the territories where they are currently distributed, has contributed to this phenomenon. The article "Gagauz Surnames" provides information regarding the etymology and distribution of numerous Gagauz surnames [3].

The surname Manastirli is derived from the name of Manaster, the city of Bitola in modern North Macedonia.

From the nineteenth century onwards, the Gagauz people began to settle in the city of Manaster. Towards the end of the XVIII century and the beginning of the 19th century, numerous ancestors of the contemporary Moldavian Gagauz population from this city and its environs relocated to Bessarabia. A sizeable family was established in Chadır-Lunga, bearing the surname Minister.

During the nineteenth century, authorities standardized the Gagauz surname system, creating a unified form that would eventually evolve into the modern version. The basis of the surname is derived from the generation (tribe, clan) name or nickname of the ancestors, their profession, religious symbol, geographical location, national affiliation, social status, or other identifying characteristics.

The majority of Gagauz surnames have retained their Turkish etymology. The principal source of their formation is proper names. There are several ways in which surnames were created. The primary methods employed are the "Turkish" and "Slavic". By the norms of the Gagauz language, the word 'oglo' and various suffixes, including *-lı, -dji, -jı, -yu, -yuk,* and others, are often added to form surnames.

In Gagauz anthroponymy, surnames and nicknames denoting nationality, tribe, etc., are common. The following names illustrate the various forms of the suffixes used in Gagauz anthroponymy: *Albanov (Albanian), Bulgarian/Bulgar, Gagauz, Armenian, Karay/Kharaim (garaim), Madjar/Majar/Manjar (Hungarian), Makedon /Macedonskiy (Macedonian).* The surnames Osman, Tatar, Nogai, Urum/Urumoglo, Turku (l), Khalachchu, Kharabul/Kharapchu and Circassian *(ov)* are examples of Turkish, Tatar, Nogai, Urum, Greek, Turkish, Khalaj, Arab and Circassian surnames, respectively.

Modern Gagauz Toponymy and Anthroponymy by authors [4] are also noteworthy for their comprehensive dictionary of Gagauz surnames, which spans 53 pages from pages 116 to 202. This dictionary addendum could prove an invaluable resource for future researchers engaged in this topic.

Notably, the term "surname" did not exist in the Turkish language before the enactment of the "Surname Law." In this legislation, the term "family name" was introduced as a replacement for the concept of "surname."

Documents show that before the 1930s, the Republic of Türkiye faced a lack of clarity in identifying individuals. Such confusion gave rise to difficulties in the social lives of the population in the context of military service and documentation issues. To circumvent these difficulties and facilitate individual identification, the Surname Law was adopted in 1934. According to the legislation stipulations above, individuals must use the surname conferred upon them. This obligation extends to all members of the populace, and it is incumbent upon them to adhere to the traditions associated with using surnames; the surname is to be employed after the first name, either alone or in conjunction with the formant "son."

In one of the materials we have at our disposal, statistical calculations indicate that surnames in 2003 are considered to be as follows: The surnames in question are Yılmaz, Kaya, Demir, Şahin, and Çelik.

This suggests that the concept of the "surname" in the Turkish language is understood in isolation from the history of its formation and application. The objective here is to highlight national (or, more accurately, racial) identity within this region and to situate this within a historical context. Nevertheless, the historical development of the concept of the "surname" among Turks is relatively recent.

The materials on Turkish surnames, which have been selected as the focus of our research, have been organized into two collections. The initial source is the collection entitled "Turkish State and Community Friendship, Brotherhood and Cooperation Congress" (Istanbul, 1997). The second batch of field material is similarly structured and comprises comparable materials.

The analysis of words and formants denoting last names in Turkish allows us to make the following generalizations:

a) The vast majority of last names or surnames in the Turkish language are composed of Turkish words of origin and a small number of borrowed words. Notably, most surnames in the Turkish language are derived from words or names associated with Turkish history and mythology.

b) Turkish surnames can also be classified into three main categories: simple, modified, and complex. The analysis demonstrates that a single word's number of surnames is relatively limited. Despite the considerable number of suffixes involved in the formation of structurally correct surnames (e.g., *çi⁴, -maz², -lı⁴, -man², -daş², -gun/-gün, -ar², ıcı/ici*), the following suffixes are deemed more productive: *-çı⁴, -maz², -lı⁴.* The most common type of surname is one that is complex in structure. Surnames with a complex structure are manifested based on rich models regarding the relevance of components to parts of speech, reflecting a high degree of linguistic complexity.

c) The surnames or surnames in the Turkish language can be divided into numerous groups in terms of meaning. These include surnames related to profession art, surnames formed from place names, nicknames, surnames formed from historical names, and those formed from animal names, among others.

d) When considering the lexicon of surnames in general, it becomes evident that the majority of nouns are used.

CONCLUSIONS

Among the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group, Turkish Turks in the Oghuz group of Turkic languages distinguish themselves by their unique method of forming surnames. The tradition of correcting surnames in Türkiye is based on two main factors. Firstly, there is the custom of giving nicknames and pseudonyms, which is widespread in the East. Secondly, the tradition of providing "ayam" is widely used. These factors have contributed to forming a unique tradition in Türkiye whereby Western examples correct surnames. In this context, the term "surname" is used in its conventional sense. However, two crucial aspects are not taken into account. Therefore, the term "single-meaning surname" is inadequate, as it fails to convey the whole terminological meaning of the multi-meaning surname. Secondly, using nicknames instead of the term 'surname' precludes the expression of the familial lineage, which serves as the foundation of the family unit, in favour of fictitious motifs that lack integrity.

Consequently, the process of surname correction lacks a fundamental foundation. Following the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, the measures implemented to extend the scope of the Turkish language, particularly the enactment of the Surname Law, proved pivotal in curbing the prevalence of borrowed terms within the structure of surnames. The majority of borrowed words found in surnames originate from Arabic and Persian languages.

Reviewing the actual language material reveals two distinct trends in Turkmen using surnames.

1) The formation of surnames based on Russian examples and subsequent use. The presence of three-member constructions evidences this tendency. At this juncture, the element denoting the surname and the element indicating the patronymic is constructed based on the Russian exemplar (with the assistance of suffixes of Russian provenance).

2) The avoidance of patronymics and the construction of surnames based on Russian exemplars; this can be considered an examination of national traditions. The number of formants involved in forming surnames in the Turkmen language is relatively limited compared to other Turkic languages of the Oghuz group, except for -*ov (a) and -yet (a).*

The number and specific forms of the formants forming the surname among the Gagauz are contingent upon the relations with related and foreign ethnic groups that this person, dispersed across numerous countries worldwide, has interacted with throughout its intricate history. The research indicates that the available materials related to Gagauz surnames are limited, and the research method employed in this field is inadequate. In the study of Gagauz surnames, the etymology of surname bases is a secondary consideration, as it is not the primary focus of surname studies. The evidence suggests that most Gagauz surnames have retained their Turkic foundation. The principal source of their formation is proper names. Surnames were created in several ways. The primary methods employed are the "Turkish" and "Slavic". By the norms of the Gagauz language, the suffixes -*lı, -ci, -çı, -yu, -yuk,* etc. are often added when forming a surname. As with any other word, a surname is integral to a language's vocabulary and should be studied carefully. Despite the abundance of material on this subject about the Turkic languages of the Oghuz group, the linguistic value of said material varies considerably. To illustrate, whereas Azerbaijani surnames are based on a more significant type of onomastic unit, namely personal names, this is not the case with Turkish surnames. It is possible to gain insight into the capacity of those who bear these names to select additional appellations for themselves, at least according to the rationale behind their choice of designation.

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