

The Kyrgyz language
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Кыргызский язык
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Abstract: *this article discusses the main issues of the formation and historical development of the Kyrgyz language. The objects of the scientific description and analysis are phonetic, lexical and grammatical features of the Kyrgyz language.*

Аннотация: *в данной статье рассматриваются основные вопросы формирования и исторического развития кыргызского языка. Объектами научного описания и анализа являются фонетические, лексические, грамматические особенности кыргызского литературного языка.*

Keywords: *Kyrgyz language, Kyrgyz, a Turkic family of languages, phonetics, grammar, vocabulary, Kyrgyz literary language, dialectal features.*

Ключевые слова: *кыргызский язык, кыргызы, тюркская семья языков, фонетика, грамматика, лексика, кыргызский литературный язык, диалектные особенности.*

The Kyrgyz language is the enhanced and processed form of the ancient Kyrgyz language. Examples of outstanding cultural heritage are known to be created in the ancient Kyrgyz language: Yenisei written monuments, oral poetic monuments «Манас» and etc. It is the mother tongue of the Constitutional titular ethnic group of the Kyrgyz Republic, the state language of the Kyrgyz Republic and the lingua franca of other nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz language as a literary language is widely used in all spheres of socio-economic, political, social and cultural life of the Kyrgyz people. According to recent reports 72 % of the Kyrgyz populations consider it to be their native language [5].

The Kyrgyz are the native population of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz people live not only in the Kyrgyz Republic, but also (since ancient times) there are large ethnic groups in Uzbekistan (more than 230 ths.), Tajikistan (about 90-100 thousand), in Kyzyl-Suu Kyrgyz autonomous region of the Republic of China (over 250 thousand), in the region of Van, Turkey (about 4000). They are citizens of these countries, they use the Kyrgyz language as means of communication. There is also information about the presence of Kyrgyz people in the north-eastern regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, small groups are in Australia, Jordan and India. Quite a lot of representatives of the Kyrgyz language native speakers moved to Europe, Asia and America, as a result of the migration [2].

The name of the Kyrgyz language comes from the ethnonym Kyrgyz recorded in the Chinese sources first time in the III century BC.

In the 19th century it was established that the Kyrgyz language belongs to the Turkic family of languages. But some linguists have different opinions about the group of Turkic language family the Kyrgyz language belongs to. I. N. Berezin believes that Kyrgyz is one of the languages of the southern group, V. V. Radlov thinks it belongs to the west group, F. E. Korsh considers it to be of the north group, A. A. Samoylovich is of the opinion that the Kyrgyz language belongs to the north-west or Kipchak group of languages. N. A. Baskakov thinks that the Kyrgyz language is one of the ancient languages, and attributed it to the Kyrgyz-Kipchak group of east-hunnic branch of Turkic languages. The peculiarities of the phonetic system, the grammatical structure of the Kyrgyz language, compared to other Turkic languages, show that it is in the closest genetic relationship with the Altay Turkic language [3; 6].

Some historical sources note that the Yenisei written monuments of 5-6 century AD refer to the Kyrgyz language, and in the Middle Ages, the Kyrgyz language used Arabic, Uighur script. Before the Great October Revolution and in its early years an alphabet based on the Arabic script was used and first works in the Kyrgyz language were created. Since 1911 several works in the Kyrgyz language were published, including several textbooks written by E. Arabaev, works by O. Sydykov, B. Soltonoev, and in 1924 in «Alippe» by E. Arabaev and a reader by K. Tynystanov were published. In the same year, in November, the first newspaper «Erkin-Too» was published in the Arabic script, which had a great influence on the development of national literature of the Kyrgyz language. Since that time, the Kyrgyz language, as a literary one, embarked on the path of development [1]. However, the Arabic script did not fully reflect the originality of the phonetic system of the Kyrgyz language, so in 1927, this alphabet was replaced by the alphabet based on Latin script. This alphabet, created on the phonemic principle, consisted of 24 letters, indicating the 30 national age-old sounds of the Kyrgyz language. Kyrgyz Latinized alphabet, in which additional 6 letters, denoting sounds (ə, ʏ, ɨ, ɜ, x, φ.), were introduced was used until the end of 1940. In 1941 the Russian alphabet with 33 letters, based on the Cyrillic alphabet was adopted. Despite the presence of some symbols in the Russian alphabet, this script was adopted in full, specific sounds of the Kyrgyz language (ə, ʏ, ɨ) were added to it, and thus, the number of letters in the alphabet reaches 36. In this regard, on September 12, 1941 the Supreme Soviet of the Kyrgyz SSR Presidium approved the Kyrgyz alphabet with 36 letters, 39 sounds and a set of spelling rules. On May 30, 1953 decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the

Kyrgyz SSR approved a new revised, amended version of the Kyrgyz orthography. Later, a new edition of the rules of spelling the Kyrgyz language was approved in 2002, and in 2012 approved its final version was ratified [1; 9].

From the point of view of phonetics the Kyrgyz language, in comparison with other Turkic languages, is characterized by 8 short, 6 long phonemes. Long vowels are divided into primary and secondary length. The word stress falls mainly on the last syllable. The law of vowel harmony is characterized by the implementation of harmonization, depending on the quality of sound, place of formation, tongue position, labialization, indicating a phonetic, grammatical peculiarity of the Kyrgyz language in comparison with other Turkic languages. There are 20 consonants in the Kyrgyz language. There are 6 sonorants or semi-vowels (л, м, н, ң, ь, й / l, m, n, ɳ, j), 6 soft consonants (б, в, д, з, ж, г / b, v, d, z, zh, g) and 6 voiceless consonants (к, п, с, т, ч, ш, ф, х / k, p, s, t, ch, sh, f, h). In the modern Kyrgyz language only vowels can form syllables. The most typical types of syllables are V – a-та (a-ta); CV – са-на (sa-na); VC – ал (al); CVC – кат (kat); VVC – ооз (ooz); CVCC – даңк (daŋk); VCC – ант (ant) [9; 6].

The Kyrgyz lexicon is characterized by the presence of original Kyrgyz words and quite a lot of borrowings. Currently, the lexis of the Kyrgyz language is continuously replenished by internal resources – words with dialectal character, new borrowings from foreign languages and semantic shifts that characterize the lexical-semantic features of the Kyrgyz language. At present, this process is enhanced day by day. It should be noted that the mutual combination of morphological and grammatical means is one of the most effective ways to enrich the vocabulary of the Kyrgyz language [8].

According to the grammatical (morphological and syntactic) structure the Kyrgyz language is of synthetic and analytical character, and as it belongs to the agglutinative type of languages, it has the basic characteristics and the same grammatical categories, characteristic of many Turkic languages. So the word as phonetic and lexicogrammatical unit, consists of lexical notional and functional parts – content and functional morphemes, and as for the syntactic structure it consists of word forms and their combinations [7; 8]. Notwithstanding the fact that the words are expressed in a meaningful lexical values in the form of root and its derivative and that some words do not have such properties lexical and grammatical nature of words generally determines their classification and consolidation into one large category as parts of the speech.

In the Kyrgyz language 6 lexical notional parts of speech are distinguished according to their lexical and grammatical properties (noun, adjective, numeral, pronoun, adverb and verb). There are also 3 specific parts of speech (interjection, imitative and modal words) and 3 functional parts of speech (conjunctions, particles, postpositions). The noun has categories of number, possessiveness, case, the verb has categories of mood, tense, person, and adjectives and adverbs have category of degrees of comparison. The transition of one part of speech to another is of a great importance in Kyrgyz. This transition is accompanied by such processes as the conversion, transposition, contributing to the enrichment of lexical structure, and it is one of the most active methods of word formation mechanism [8; 9].

The Kyrgyz literary language was formed on the basis of the nationwide Kyrgyz language. Nowadays, despite the presence of some words of territorial, ethnic origin, language units that are typical and understandable for all Kyrgyz people prevail in the Kyrgyz language. Due to this it is assumed that the phonetic, lexical and grammatical features of the Kyrgyz language constitute a form of literary language. Undoubtedly, the vernacular has the local dialect features, especially in its oral form. This can be explained, on the one hand, by the historical development of the language since ancient times, on the other hand, as a result of the influence of other related and unrelated languages, and, thirdly, by ethnogenetical composition of the Kyrgyz people. This fact is important historical linguistic data for the history of the Kyrgyz language.

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