

stand out by their virtues[15]. By the natural gifts, man researches the reasons of the existing things, and if he cultivates faith in God, he also gets to recognize God's power and presence in the world. By the supernatural gifts, man ascends to the knowledge of God, which means theology, which is above any other kind of knowledge, and he acquires, as a gift, the wisdom from above, which "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity" (James 3: 17).

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#### YAKUT LANGUAGE IN THE SYSTEM OF ALTAISTICS

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#### ABSTRACT

In the Altaics the Turkic group of languages holds a special place, in contrast to the Mongolian and Tungus language groups. The latter groups have a defined relationship and are younger in age compared to the Turkic language groups in terms of language formation as the state attributes.

Among the Turkic languages Yakut language, as well as the Chuvash, holds a specific place. This fact was first pointed out by O. Bëtlingk in his monograph "On the Yakut language", published in 1851 [1]. And according to V.V. Radloff, initially Yakut language belonged to some unknown language group which was not of Turkic origin and had long been subjected to the influence of Mongolian dialect and then transferred to the family of Turkic languages [2].

In his scientific works academician O. Bëtlingk suggested that Yakut language belonged to ancient Turkic dialects. Further, this opinion was supported by well-known turkologists, V.L. Kotvich, S.E. Malov, N.A. Baskakov, E.I. Ubryatova, A.M. Shecherbakov, N.K. Antonov et al. [3]. Moreover, they proposed to define the period of language separation from its initial ancient Turkic basis before V - VII centuries [4]. Later, G.G. Levin clarified this situation: there were 484 words (73.3%) in Yakut language out of 660 ancient Turkic bases. Moreover, it is notable that Kyrgyz language (89%) is the most related language to Yakut language according to the number of identified parallels in Turkic language groups [5].

Keywords: Altaic languages, Turkic group, Yakut language, ancient contacts, Indo-Iranian languages.

According to conclusion of G.G. Levin, the process of divergence of ancient Turkic and Yakut languages started in around IV - V centuries. [6]. Thus, based on the data presented let us try to trace the formation of the Sakha people language in the following version.

Within the period of II-I century B.C. there was observed a formation of a parent Turkic language which was considered to be the basics. The authors of "Comparative historical grammar of Turkic languages ... believed that "... one should take into account the peculiar development of the Yakut phonetics under foreign, non-Turkic environment" [7].

The problem connected with early identification of ancient Turkic languages or dialects, in particular, determination of the language of Central Asian Xiongnu is a burning topic. Thus, according to E.R. Tenishev and A.V. Dybo, dating of the initial information about the Huns in the Chinese sources (IV-III centuries BC.), "amazingly

coincides with glottochronological determination of the splitting period of a parent Turkic language – a separation of Bulgarian group" [8].

During the common Turkic period (the second level of division) there was observed a separation into three branches which is determined by turkologists as Yakut, Siberian, and the residue. The division dates back to 160 A.D.

According to classification of Turkic languages suggested by N.A. Baskakov, Yakut language had its origin in the Hunnish era, from IV century B.C. - to V century A.D. He divided the Hunnish era into two groups: Western Hunnish (Bulgarian and Khazar language) and Eastern Hunnish (Uyghur-Oghuz and Kyrgyz-Kypchak languages). Thus, the ancient Uyghur and Tuvian languages and further, independently, Yakut language, originated from Uighur-Oghuz languages.

In this regard, let us consider the problem of Hun language. It is known that arrival of Turkic tribes on the Volga and the Black Sea steppes is mainly associated with the movement of the Huns.

An analysis of the vocabulary of Turkic languages, in particular, their ancient layer, indicates that large numbers of cattle-breeding terms were borrowed by Turkic people from Indo-European, mostly Iranian languages. However, some of them, apparently, should be referred to Nostratic linguistic community of the ancient Mesolithic era, D.E. Eremeyev noted that in ancient Turkic language some socio-political terms were borrowed from Indo-European languages in the VI century A.D. [9].

Borrowings from Indo-Iranian vocabulary were found in Yakut language. One should bear in mind that Yakut language, along with Bulgarian and Chuvash, is one of the most ancient Turkic dialects. It is interesting that among these parallels Indo-Aryan - Yakut dialects prevail. At the same time the Sanskrit parallels mainly originate from the ancient Vedic sources that trace back to ancient Indo-European parent language. There are more than two hundred stems and roots showing such parallels in Yakut language.

Here are some linguistic parallels of common nature: Sanskrit: *sik* – "to sprinkle" = Yakut: *siik* – "dew, humidity"; Sanskrit: *smil* "to blink" = Yakut: *sim*, *simirnee* "to blink"; Sanskrit: *tosa* "satisfaction" – Yakut: *tuha* "benefit"; Sanskrit *akaai* "stupid" = Yakut *akaary* "stupid, narrow-minded"; Sanskrit *aias* "tireless" = Yakut: *ayaa* "high-spirited, a unbacked wild horse"; Sanskrit: *is* "juice, drink" = Yakut: *is* "to drink, drink"; Sanskrit: *yd* "water, wave" = Yakut: *uu* "water"; Sanskrit: *osth* "lips" = Yakut: *uos* "lips"; Sanskrit: *kathin* "solid, strong, hardened" = Yakut: *khatan* "solid, hardened"; Sanskrit: *kan* "be content" = Yakut: *khan* "to be content"; Sanskrit: *vis* "community, kin" = Yakut: *biis* "tribe"; Sanskrit: *dheny* "cow", Yakut: *tinehe* "three-year old cow" [10]. It should be emphasized that Yakut language preserved the "features of pre-Oghuz-Kypchak pro-Turkic state" [11].

In this regard, the following question arises: why exactly the Yakut language has preserved the linguistic archaisms? Perhaps, the answer to this question can be a method of lingua-geographical research suggested by Italian philologist M. Bartoli. He established that more archaic stages of the language were usually preserved in isolated areas, i.e. in the peripheral geographical areas. In our case, Yakutia is the mentioned isolated area.

Based on this methodology, we note that in addition to Yakut-Aryan parallels there are similar parallels between Yakut and Iranian languages. For example, the Yakut word *aar* means "sacred purity, nobility" and "divinity" [12]. It is interesting to associate *aar* with ancient Iranian word *aru* "noble".

Ossetian *apd* "god" (the Ossetians are considered to be the part of the Scythians); Yakut: *aiyy* "creation, the common name of creators", Avestan: *aya* "life power" = Sanskrit – Iran: *aju* "a living being"; ancient Iran: *sur* = *sura* "strong", Yakut: *sur* "spiritual power of a man"; Avestan: *kavi* "wise, clairvoyant, shaman, priest, who sings when making sacrifices", = Yakut: *kab=kap* "fate"; *kabin* "a man who predicts one's fate";

Avestan: *jata* "deity" = Yakut: *sata* (Turkic *yada*) "magic stone, changing weather"; ancient Iran: *urj* "food, power, abundance" = Yakut: *uruy* "prayer for well-being, an expression of joyous mood, battle cry of "grant"; Avestan: *aosta* "lip" = Yakut: *uos* "lip"; Iran: *mani* "necklace"; Avestan: *manaosti* "neck, back of the head" = Yakut: *moonnyu* "a neck"; Turkic-Yakut: *ut* "a horse", apparently, came from Ancient Iran word *atja* "a horse"; Avestan: *hapta* "seven" = Yakut: *sette* "seven"; Avestan: *srva* "a horn" = Yakut: *syrbat* "to beat"; Iran: *nadis* "sheepfold, fold" = Yakut: *naadyj* "a godfather, godmother, guardian" = Yakut: *Naadyj* *Njakha* "a hostess, spirit of cowshed, a goddess - guardian of livestock in general"; Iran: *kata* "a dugout" = Yakut: *khoton* "a cowshed"; Avestan: *vida* "a dwelling house of yurta-type" = Yakut: *butey* "one-piece, solid fence"; Ancient Iran: *aman* "to instruct" = Yakut: *amaan tyl*, "instructive words" [13]. In addition, other borrowings from Sanskrit, as well as about 10 borrowings from Iranian language (borrowings from Persian language) were identified in Yakut long ago: *aakhta*, *baabyr*, *barga*, *bolot*, *sandaly*, *sata chagar*, *eteme*, *sarai*, *kudai*, *badjan*. They are also found in the languages of other Turkic-Mongolian people. The word of Yakut-Turkic origin *sadakh* "a quiver" can also be considered a borrowing from the ancient Iranian *saxtak* which means "equipment" and from Avestan *saxta* (in Ossetic the word *saxta* means "to put"). They are also comparable to the Yakut *saakhtaa* "to put, defecate"; *saadakh* "a quiver" [14].

According to V.V. Fefelova, one can observe an influence of ancient Caucasoid layer ("Aryan") in ethnogenesis of the Yakuts. However, the layer is currently hidden by later Mongoloid development ... [15].

Apparently, two languages of Turkic origin influenced to the development of Yakut language. One of them, composing the basis of Yakut language, was close to the Ancient Oghuz (Orkhon-Eniseisk) language (especially in terms of grammatical structure and vocabulary) and had separated from it approximately in the VI -VII centuries. Perhaps it was the language of the Baikal Kurykans who started their isolated development in around VI century.

The second Turkic language, that played a certain role in the development of Yakut language, was the language of the Kypchak type. This can be confirmed by the presence of several hundred Yakut-Kypchak isolated lexical parallels. The Kypchak vocabulary, according to G.V. Popov, introduced in the Yakut language is mostly connected with economy and the words denoting natural phenomena, animals, birds and spiritual culture, though they are referred to rarely used words.

According to the linguists (K.I. Ubryatova, St. Kaluzhinsky, N.K. Antonov, V.I. Rassadin et al.) in the period of XIII - XV centuries Yakut language was observed to

have the strongest influence of some unknown East-Mongolian language. Based on this fact it is assumed that this happened in the Middle Lena area inhabited by Mongol-speaking ethnic groups who had been coexisting with the Yakuts for a long time in a bilingual environment [16].

In the IV-III centuries B.C. the Altaic family split into Turkic, Mongolian, Tungus languages. Apparently, this period the parent Turkic language, initially common Turkic language, partially adopted the vocabulary of Iranian-Saka branch of Indo-European family on the territory of Altai (in general - South Siberia). However, the Turkic core of Yakut language started to gradually separate from the common Turkic (to be precise, ancient Turkic) language but it could preserve a significant number of language borrowings (about 200 words). This linguistic process continued in Hun-Sarmatian period (late III century B.C. - V century A.D.).

In the Turkic period there was a process of separation of Yakut and Siberian languages (160 A.D.). This process further continued on the basis of Eastern Hun group (Uyghur-Oghuz, Khazar, Kyrgyz-Kypchak dialects).

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the above data, we can assume that the formation of Yakut language took place during the I millennium B.C. on the territory of South Siberia, during the period of anticipated bilingualism between the two language families (groups) - Altai-Turkic and Indo-Iranian group of the Indo-European family of languages. Later, in the second half of I millennium B.C. (in the Hun-Sarmatian period), there was observed a process of separation of the future Yakut language basics from the Turkic (common Turkic) language. This period, apparently, was chronologically associated with the development of the language of the Huns (hereinafter, the Huns and their dialects: Bulgarian, Khazar, Avar and separately, the Chuvash languages).

Thus, according to its grammatical system Yakut language belongs to Oghuz language group, and to Oghuz-Uyghur and partly Kypchak languages on its vocabulary. It reveals the ancient "subsurface" layer of early borrowings of the vocabulary of Indo-Iranian origin. We can assume that Mongolian lexical and phonetic introduction had two-stages. We also can note a relatively small number of words of Tungus-Manchurian origin in Yakut language. Moreover, 10% of the vocabulary of Yakut language refers to the words of an unknown origin which remains a riddle. More likely, this layer of the vocabulary is related to the language of native population of ancient Yakutia, which can be conventionally attributed to Paleosian language group.

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