

Lexicology: Russian Words of Turkic Origin

Khurshidbekov Asadbek Khurshidbek Ugli

*Student of the Faculty of Information Technology, Group 50, 2nd Year, Technical
School No. 3, Uzbekistan, Andijan.*

asadullohomanov425@gmail.com

Scientific Supervisor: Omanova Gulnorakhon Shakirjonovna

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Uzbek and Russian Languages, "University of
Economics and Pedagogy"*

gulnoraomanova_2@icloud.com

Abstract: *This article examines the characteristics of lexical borrowings from Turkic languages into the Russian language. It explores the historical prerequisites for the emergence of Turkisms, their thematic groups, and the specifics of their functioning in modern Russian. The analysis demonstrates that a significant number of words of Turkic origin have become firmly established in the lexical system of the Russian language and are used in various spheres of communication. Turkic borrowings serve as important evidence of the cultural and historical contacts between Slavic and Turkic peoples.*

Key words: *lexicology, Turkisms, borrowings, Russian language, language contacts.*

Introduction

The friendship between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan resembles the branches of a single tree, growing from a common root that extends deep into the earth. To one another, they are the "upright, useful, and loyal" friends of whom Confucius spoke [1]. Their languages belong to the same historical family—Turkic. The Turkic peoples share common blood, a common religion, and a unified goal. From these Turkic languages, a substantial number of words migrated into the Slavic lexicon—words that are still in use today and have become an inseparable part of the Slavic heritage [2]. The lexical system of any language is shaped by various historical, cultural, and social factors, and the Russian language is no exception. Throughout its development, it has actively interacted with other languages, leading to the emergence of a significant number of borrowed words. One of the most vital sources of these borrowings has been the Turkic languages [3, 4]. Words that entered Russian from Turkic sources are known as Turkisms. They represent an essential layer of vocabulary that reflects the historical contacts between the peoples of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Turkic borrowings permeated the Russian language over several historical periods. This process was inextricably linked to the political, economic, and cultural interactions between Slavic and Turkic peoples [5, 6]. The purpose of this article is to investigate the lexicological features of Russian words of Turkic origin and to determine their role in the modern Russian language [7].

Methodology

Historical Prerequisites for Borrowing Turkic Words

The process of Turkic words entering the Russian language began as early as the Old Russian period. The East Slavs actively interacted with the nomadic peoples of the Eurasian steppe—the

Pechenegs, Polovtsians, and other Turkic tribes. Language contacts became particularly intensive during the era of the Golden Horde. This period saw active interaction between diverse peoples, facilitating a robust exchange of cultural and linguistic elements. As a result of these contacts, a large volume of words related to the administrative system, trade, military affairs, and daily life entered the Russian language. Following the collapse of the Golden Horde, ties between the Russian and Turkic peoples did not cease. Trade relations with the Kazan, Crimean, and Astrakhan Khanates continued to promote the spread of Turkic words within the Russian language. Thus, Turkic borrowings are the result of centuries of multifaceted interaction between different nations.

Thematic Classification of Turkisms

Turkic borrowings in the Russian language can be categorized into several thematic groups.

Results and Discussion

Household Vocabulary

This group includes words denoting items of everyday life. For example [8]:

Сарай (Saray) – Shed/Barn

Сундук (Sunduk) – Chest/Trunk

Башмак (Bashmak) – Shoe

Кошма (Koshma) – Felt mat

These words entered the Russian language alongside elements of the material culture of Eastern peoples [9].

Food and Culinary Terms

A special group comprises words related to cuisine and food products. These include:

Арбуз (Arbuz) – Watermelon

Кумыс (Kumys) – Kumis (fermented mare's milk)

Халва (Khalva) – Halva

Шашлык (Shashlyk) – Shashlik/Kebab

Many of these words were borrowed along with new dishes and culinary traditions [10].

Socio-Political Vocabulary

Certain Turkisms pertain to the spheres of state administration and military affairs. For example:

Караул (Karaul) – Guard/Watch

Казна (Kazna) – Treasury

Атаман (Ataman) – Ataman/Chieftain

Тамга (Tamga) – Tamga/Stamp/Brand

These words appeared in Russian as a result of political contacts and administrative interactions [11].

Lexico-Semantic Features of Turkisms

Once borrowed, words undergo a process of adaptation. They begin to conform to the phonetic and grammatical norms of the Russian language.

Phonetic adaptation is manifested in the alteration of the word's sound structure. For instance, specific sounds in Turkic languages are replaced with the closest-sounding Russian equivalents [12].

Grammatical adaptation is expressed through the way these words begin to decline (case endings) and change by number. For example [13]:

Башмак (singular) — Башмаки (plural)

Караул (noun) — Караульный (adjective)

Furthermore, Turkic words can serve as roots for forming new words using Russian derivational suffixes. This demonstrates the deep integration of borrowed elements into the Russian linguistic system [14].

The Functioning of Turkisms in the Modern Russian Language

In the modern Russian language, many Turkisms are actively used in both everyday speech and literature. Some of these words have become so deeply rooted in the language that native speakers no longer perceive them as borrowings. Furthermore, Turkic words are frequently employed in fiction to convey national flavor and the historical atmosphere of literary works [15]. This confirms the significant role Turkisms play in the development of the Russian language and its lexical system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Turkic borrowings constitute an essential part of the Russian lexical system. They reflect a long history of cultural and political contacts between Slavic and Turkic peoples. The analysis of Turkisms shows that they span various thematic spheres, including household vocabulary, culinary terms, administrative terminology, and natural realities. During the borrowing process, these words adapt to the phonetic and grammatical norms of the Russian language, becoming an inseparable part of it.

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