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**ON SOME ANIMAL NAMES IN THE SART-KALMYK**  
**LANGUAGE**

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### Abstract

The article based on published, archival and field materials (2009, 2012, 2015, 2017) outlines, describes, classifies and introduces some animal names in the Sart-Kalmyk language. The Sart-Kalmyks (Karakol, Issyk-Kul Kalmyks) of Kyrgyzstan are descendants of two migration waves of Dzungarian Oirats that took place in the 1750s (after defeat of the Dzungarian khanate) and in the 1860s (after suppression of the Muslim uprising in Xinjiang). Unlike most Mongol peoples, the Sart-Kalmyks confess Islam. Today, the Sart-Kalmyk language is one of the endangered Mongolian languages with few native speakers, who are at the same time greatly influenced by the dominant Kirghiz language. Animal names are classified by the authors into the following groups: insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (wild animals). Comparison of some Sart-Kalmyk animal names with those in the Oirat language and the Kalmyk language shows that there is no fundamental difference between them: Sart-Kalm. *bathən* 'fly', Oir. *batayana*, Kalm. *bathn*, Kirg. *chymyn*; Sart-Kalm. *meklə* 'frog', Oir. *melekei*, Kalm. *meklə*, Kirg. *baka*; Sart-Kalm. *elə shovun* 'milvus', Oir. *elē*, Kalm. *elə*, Kirg. *airy kuiruk*; Sart-Kalm. *zorhən* 'badger', Oir. *zorxon*, Kalm. *zorhn*, Kirg. *kashkulak*; Sart-Kalm. *chon* 'wolf', Oir. *čino*, Kalm. *chon*, Kirg. *karyshkyr*, etc.). This proves that the animal names go back to the common Oirat language. As a result, it has been concluded that further comparative studies of the Sart-Kalmyk language with the Oirat language and the Kalmyk language is of interest from the viewpoint of different linguistic issues.

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## 1. Introduction

The Sart-Kalmyks (Karakol Kalmyks, Issyk-Kul Kalmyks) reside in Kyrgyzstan, near the lake Issyk-Kul in the Ak-Sui district of the Issyk-Kul region, in the villages of Chelpek, Burma-Suu, Tash-Kya and Beryu-Bash located to the west of the city of Bishkek. They are descendants of two migration waves of Dzungarian Oirats that took place in the 1750s (after defeat of the Dzungarian khanate) and in the 1860s (after suppression of the Muslim uprising in Xinjiang). Unlike most Mongol peoples, the Sart-Kalmyks confess Islam. According to the 2009 Kyrgyz census, the population of Kalmyks numbered 3,801 (Census, 2010). However, it is almost impossible to give an exact figure, since they are registered as Kirghiz according to their passport data. Currently, according to unofficial sources, about 20 thousand Sart-Kalmyks live in the country.

## 2. Problem Statement

The Sart-Kalmyks have been the object of research since the late 1920s. Burdukov (1935) gave a brief description of their language in the article "The Karakol Kalmyks (Sart-Kalmyks)": "External "Kirghization" goes quickly, but the native features are still preserved. Everyone knows their native language as a home language: the older generation – to a larger extent, and the younger – to a smaller extent. In some cases, including everyday life, the Kalmyks speak Kirghiz more often than Kalmyk, especially in those families where a wife is a Kirghiz; but there are also cases when a Kalmyk lives with two wives — one Kalmyk, the other Kirghiz, and the latter still masters the Kalmyk language.... (Burdukov, 1935).

In 1976, the famous Russian linguist-Turkologist Tenishev (1976) said that the native language of the Sart-Kalmyks is limited to purely domestic use, mainly among the older generation. In the public sphere, the Sart-Kalmyks would use Kirghiz and Russian. They know Tatar songs well and sing them eagerly. According to the researcher, the Sart-Kalmyk language is a dialect of the Kalmyk language. The Kalmyk linguists Pavlov (1990) and Ubushaev (2006) believe that the Sart-Kalmyk language is the *torgut* dialect (*tsataan* sub-dialect) of the Kalmyk language. Suseeva (1973) and Esenova (2004) also consider the Sart-Kalmyk language to be a dialect of the Kalmyk language.

## 3. Research Questions

Today, the Sart-Kalmyk language is one of the endangered Mongolian languages with few native speakers, who are at the same time greatly influenced by the dominant Kirghiz language. The research problem consists in studying, describing and classifying the vocabulary of the Sart-Kalmyks of Kyrgyzstan. The material is represented with published, archival and the authors' personal field materials collected among the Sart-Kalmyks of the Ak-Sui district of Kyrgyzstan over the past decade (2009, 2012, 2015, 2017). The collection includes extensive materials on the language and folklore of the Sart-Kalmyks.

#### 4. Purpose of the Study

The research purpose is to identify, describe, classify and introduce into scientific use some of the Sart-Kalmyk names of animals, grouped into insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (wild animals), and to compare the names with their equivalents in the Oirat, Kalmyk and Kirghiz languages.

#### 5. Research Methods

The methodology of the present article is based on the principles of studying the vocabulary of Mongolian languages, described by the Russian researchers: Burdukov (1935), Tenishev (1976), Kichikov (1979), Pavlov (1990), Ubushaev (2006), Rassadin et al. (2009), Arimenova (2012), Menyaev (2015), Borlykova (2019) and others.

#### 6. Findings

Hundreds of species of amazing animals inhabit the territory of the Ak-Sui district of the Issyk-Kul region. Here you can find both the most common animals living in the steppes throughout Central Asia (wolves, foxes, hares, wild boars, roe deers, etc.), and rare species inhabiting only the Tian Shan mountains (snow leopard, manul cat, Turkestan lynx, white-footed bear, Tianshan maral, mountain goat, mufflon, etc.).

The following lexemes have been referred to the group of insects: Sart-Kalmyk (S.-K.) *bathān* 'fly', Oirat (Oir.) *batayana*, Kalmyk (Kalm.) *bathn*, Kirghiz (Kirg.) *chymyn*: *Hyppn zil hycpū hynn khar bathn ognā* / [He] gave a three-year-old infertile black fly (Scientific archive of KIHRS RAS, Fund No. 21, Inv. No. 1, item 60.); S.-K. *ile* 'gnat', Kalm. *ilasn*, Kirg. *zhazgy*: *Tyymās tsaar odhn neg ile shuugldzhazh/* When I went on, I [saw] a gnat making noise (Scientific archive of KIHRS RAS, Fund No. 21, Inv. No. 1, item 60.); S.-K. *shorhlzhān* 'ant', Kalm. *shorhlzhn*, Oir. *šoryoljin*, Kirg. *kumurska*; S.-K. *charcha* 'locust', Oir. *carca*, *tsartsakha*, Kalm. *tsartsakha*, Kirg. *chegirtke*; S.-K. *alzhin* 'spider', Oir. *araljīn*, Kalm. *aralzhn*, Kirg. *zhergemush*; S.-K. *bekynā* 'mosquito', Oir. *böküne*, Kalm. *bekyn*, Kirg. *chirkey*; S.-K. *tsogt khorkha* 'dor beetle'; Oir. *coqtu xorxoi*, Kalm. *tsogts khorkha*, Kirg. *konyz*; S.-K. *erbekā* 'butterfly', Oir. *erbēkei*, Kalm. *ervākā*, Kirg. *kepelök*: *Tsogt horkhan evr deer harkhlakhin devl-duvl ged daav* / Staggered on dor beetle's horns (Scientific archive of KIHRS RAS, Fund No. 21, Inv. No. 1, item 60.); etc.

The group of amphibians is represented by one lexeme in the Sart-Kalmyk language – *meklā* 'frog' (Oir. *melekei*, Kalm. *meklā*, Kirg. *baka*. The Kirghiz word 'baka' originates from the Kazakh *Bakhlyg (baqa)*, a village in the Ili-Kazakh Autonomous region of Xinjiang (China).

The group of reptiles includes the following lexemes: S.-K. *khavkhntā* 'tortoise', Oir. *yasutu melekei* (literally 'bone frog'), Kalm. *khavkhnt*, *khavkhandg*, Kirg. *tash baka* (literally 'stone frog'); S.-K. *moha* 'snake', Oir. *moyoi*, Kalm. *moha*, Kirg. *zhylan*: *khorta mohag dāalkhār irzht* / came to defeat a poisonous snake (Scientific archive of KIHRS RAS, tape No. 143(134)); S.-K. *gyrgyldā* 'lizard', Oir. *gürgüül*, *gyrvl*, Kalm. *gyrvlg*, Kirg. *keskeldirik*, etc.

Bird names are also widely represented. The common name of birds in Sart-Kalmyk is 'shovud' (Oir. *šobuud*, Kalm. *shovud*, Kirg. *kanat tuular*). The bird names are very popular in the folklore of the Sart-Kalmyks:

- *shaazha shovun* 'magpie' (Oir. *šāzʔai*, Kalm. *shaazha*, Kirg. *sagyzgan*): *Shaazha shovun chuglurna* (PMA); *Shaazha shovun tsuglrna* (Ernzhen, 2013);
- *byrgyd shovun* 'golden eagle' (Oir. *bürgüd*, Kalm. *byrgd*, Kirg. *byrkyt*): *Byrgyd shovun chuglurna* (PMA); *Byrgd shovun tsuglrna* (Ernzhen, 2013); *Byrgyd shovun chəshknə* (Pavlov, 1990);
- *hyrhylda* 'nightingale' (Oir. *γurγuldai*, Kalm. *hyrhylda*, *khalvh*, Kirg. *bulbul*): *Ter hazrt Bək Hyrhylda gihəd kymyn hyrnihad cyyhad bəənə* / A man named Beck Gurguldai was sad (Scientific archive of KIHR RAS, tape No. 143(134));
- *kukug shovun*, *kyklyg shovun* 'cuckoo' (Oir. *köküq*, Kalm. *kəkg*, *kəkə*, Kirg. *kykyk*): *Kukug shovun dongidna* (Pavlov, 1990); *Kyklyg shovun keerk* (Pavlov, 1990);
- *zhahylma shovun*, *zahlma shovun* 'falcon' (Oir. *zayalmai*, Kalm. *zahlma*, Kirg. *zhagalmai*): *Zhahylma shovun keerk* (Pavlov, 1990);
- *itlg shovun* 'saker falcon' (Oir. *itelge*, Kalm. *itlg*, Kirg. *itelgi*): *Itlg shovun*, *keerk* (Ernzhen, 2013); *Itlg shovun*, *keerk* (Ernzhen, 2013);
- *elə shovun* 'milvus' (Oir. *elee*, Kalm. *elə*, Kirg. *ayry kuyruk*): *Elə shovun*, *keerk* (Ernzhen, 2013);
- *tohs shovun* 'peacock' (Oir. *tohos*, Kalm. *tohstn*, Kirg. *toos*): *Tohs shovuna bəədlətə* (Ernzhen, 2013);
- *eln* 'black-tailed godwit' (Oir. *eln*, Kalm. *eln*, Kirg. *saz sazduk*): *Eln shovuna bəədlətə* / It is like a black-tailed godwit;
- *yotun* 'partridge' (Oir. *yotun*, Kalm. *yotun*, Kirg. *kekiliktei*): *neg khorma arhsn gentki dirdgd yotun bolad nisəd uga bolad odv* / Suddenly, the fuel in the hem turned into a partridge and flew away (Scientific archive of KIHR RAS, Fund No. 21, Inv. No. 1, item 60);
- *halun* 'goose' (Oir. *halun*, Kalm. *halun*, Kirg. *kaz*): *Hyrvn cholun tylh "gag-gug" halun bolad nisəd odv* / three stone tripods turned into geese with the cry "gag-gug" and flew away (Scientific archive of KIHR RAS, Fund No. 21, Inv. No. 1, item 60).

The birds mentioned in the folklore works of the Sart-Kalmyks include magpie, golden eagle, cuckoo, falcon, saker falcon, milvus, black-tailed godwit, etc. These are common birds of Kyrgyzstan. In everyday life, the Sart-Kalmyks encounter these birds closely and, of course, are well aware of their habits, habitats, lifestyle, etc.: *Saqır-saqır modndn'* / On a wide-spreading tree / *Šaazʔa šovun' cuqlrna.* / magpies gather / *Šaazʔan alq nüdnäse* / The mottled eyes of a magpie / *Nul'msn yunggad asxrna!* / are shedding tears. Why? / *Bütü bütü modndn'* / In a deep, deep forest, / *Bürgd šovud cuqlrna,* / Golden eagles gather. / *Bürqr xoyir nüdnäsn'* / The narrowed eyes / *Nul'msn yunggad asxrdv?* / are shedding tears. Why? (PMA); *Byrgyd shovun chəshknə* / A golden eagle is whistling; *Kukug shovun dongidna* / A cuckoo is cuckooing (Pavlov, 1990).

The Sart-Kalmyks often use golden eagles (*byrgyd shovun*) in hunting. In 1964, Kichikov (1979) made records about the habitat, habits and training of golden eagles according to information provided by

Ahmed Shargaev, the owner of an 8-9-year-old golden eagle. "The golden eagle is an unusual bird. They live in mountainous and wooded areas and nest on inaccessible rocks. A female usually lays 1-2 eggs at a time. Golden eagles feed their nestlings with roe deer or maral. When they are old enough, brave hunters climb on the rock, take them and train to hunt. The golden eagle is a fearless bird, not even afraid of a wolf. When fighting with a wolf, it breaks the animal's spine. If it hits on a fox or a roe, the golden eagle digs in with its claws, beats its wings, tries to peck out eyes, or immediately bites the throat. Within an hour, the owner persuades the bird to give up its prey. An average golden eagle weighs from 3 to 6 kilograms. The most agile birds are known throughout the area. In the old days, they were exchanged for the most expensive cattle, such as a camel. The golden eagle is able to hunt for 25-50 years. When the bird gets old, its owners let it go free. So, the golden eagle is a very bold, fighting and predatory bird" (Kichikov, 1979).

The names of migratory birds (*kyklyg* 'cuckoo', *zhahylma*, *zahlma* 'falcon', *itlg* 'saker falcon', *elə* 'milvus') play an important role in creating an imaginative picture of the world of the Sart-Kalmyks. Married women are often compared to birds in songs: *Khol khazra:s irsn* / Flown in from distant countries / *Kyklyg shovun keerky* / Cuckoo is a poor thing / *Kymnə hazras:s zayasn* / Living in a strange land / *Kyykyn ɣryn keerky* / Daughter is a poor thing (Pavlov, 1990). People in exile are also an object of comparison: *Zakh hazra:s irsn* / Arrived from the edge of the world / *Zhahylma shovun keerky* / Falcon is a poor thing / *Kholy hazra:s irsn* / Arrived from a distant land / *Mini dyynyr keerky* / My poor younger brothers (Pavlov, 1990).

In the Sart-Kalmyk song "Өркөрн khələkhñ..." ("When you look down the chimney..."), recorded by K. Erendzhenov in 1933, birds *eln* (1) 'black-tailed godwit' and *tohc* (1) 'peacock' symbolize a girl's beauty: *Өркөрн khələkhñ* / When you look in the chimney (of the tent) / *Өln shovuna bəədlətə* / She's like a black-tailed godwit / *Өvrləd kevtkhñ* / When you lie down embracing / *Өvrləgəsn zheelkn* / Softer than quilts / *Totkharn khələkhñ* / When you look through the door jamb / *Tohc shovuna bəədlətə* / She's like a peacock / *Tokhaldad kevtkhñ* / When you lie down leaning / *Torhnasn zheelkn...* / Softer than silk... (Ernzhenov, 2013). A version of this song was recorded among the Astrakhan Kalmyks by the Hungarian linguist Gabort Balint in 1871-1872 under the title "E! Shikrtə nuurin kevəd" ("On the shores of Shikrte nur lake").

The group of mammals is represented only with the names of wild animals:

- *irbis* 'snow leopard' (Oir. *irbis*, Kalm. *irvs*, Kirg. *ilbirs*) is the only permanent inhabitant of the highlands;
- *manul* 'manul, wild cat' (Oir. *manul*, Kalm. *manul*, Kirg. *madyl*);
- *chon* 'wolf' (Oir. *čino*, Kalm. *chon*, Kirg. *karyshkyr*, *bery* (Bəry Bash 'wolf's head' – settlement in the Ak-Sui district of Kyrgyzstan));
- *ɣngyn*, *arat* 'fox' (Oir. *ünegün*, Kalm. *ɣngn*, *arat*, Kirg. *tylky*) inhabits the entire territory of Kyrgyzstan;
- *ayu* 'bear' (Oir. *ötöq*, *ayu*, Kalm. *ayu*, Kirg. *ayuu*);
- *zorkhən* 'badger' (Oir. *zorxon*, Kalm. *zorkhñ*, Kirg. *kashkulak*);
- *buh*, *marl* 'deer' (Oir. *buɣa*, *maral*, Kalm. *buh*, *marl*, Kirg. *bugu*, *maral*) is the largest representative of the fauna of Kyrgyzstan. A deer weights over 300 kg.

*Buhan arsn shchalvrig*

*Bulchn talan tatad imkrəd.*

*/ The pants from deer skins*

were rolled up to the calves (Scientific archive of KIIHR RAS, tape No. 143(134)).

*tək* 'kulan' (Oir. *taki*, Kalm. *tək*):

*Tekən arsn shalvrig,*

*Takm talan imkrəd,*

*/ The pants from kulan skins*

were rolled up to fossa poplitea (Scientific archive of KIIHR RAS, tape No. 143(134)).

*arkhar* 'wild sheep' (Oir. *aryali* 'female wild sheep', *hulza* 'male wild sheep', Kalm. *arhl* 'female wild sheep', Kirg. *arkar* 'female wild sheep', *kulzha* 'male wild sheep');

*tuula* 'hare' (Oir. *tuulai*, Kalm. *tuula*, Kirg. *tolai*);

*khyllhn* 'mouse' (Oir. *xulyuna*, Kalm. *khyllhn*, Kirg. *chychkan*, etc.

The Sart-Kalmyk version of the epic "Dzhangar" records the word *gerəlkh* 'to hunt wild animals', formed from the word *gerə* 'hunting wild animals' (Scientific archive of KIIHR RAS, tape No. 143(134)).

## 7. Conclusion

Comparison of some Sart-Kalmyk animal names with those in the Oirat language and the Kalmyk language shows that there is no fundamental difference between them: Sart-Kalm. *bathən* 'fly', Oir. *batajana*, Kalm. *bathn*, Kirg. *chymyn*; Sart-Kalm. *meklə* 'frog', Oir. *melekei*, Kalm. *meklə*, Kirg. *baka*; Sart-Kalm. *elə shovun* 'milvus', Oir. *elē*, Kalm. *elə*, Kirg. *airy kuiruk*; Sart-Kalm. *zorhən* 'badger', Oir. *zorxon*, Kalm. *zorhn*, Kirg. *kashkulak*; Sart-Kalm. *chon* 'wolf', Oir. *čino*, Kalm. *chon*, Kirg. *karyshkyr*, etc.). This proves that the animal names go back to the common Oirat language. The results obtained cannot be considered comprehensive and final due to the versatility of the research subject. Further comparative studies of the Sart-Kalmyk language with the Oirat language and the Kalmyk language is of interest from the viewpoint of different linguistic issues.

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